

High school seniors battle Katrina effects

Face college application obstacles

BY KRISTIN PRATT
STAFF WRITER

Applying and preparing academically for college is difficult enough without two major hurricanes disrupting school life.

Junior and senior high school students in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have had to make adjustments in efforts to graduate on time and head off to college.

"Applying for college is overwhelming in the best of times," said Richard Bavaria, vice president of education at Sylvan Learning Center. "Those students will face even more hurdles they have to jump over."

While the dust has not settled yet, it does appear that most seniors in Louisiana and Mississippi will be able to graduate and move on to college in the spring.

In Louisiana, all but two of the 68 school districts were open for students as of last week, said Meg Casper, interim director of communications for the Louisiana Department of Education. The St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans Parish schools were not open yet.

"We're going as best as can be expected," she said. Casper said the department encouraged students to enroll in schools as soon as possible, either in-state or out-of-state, so they can continue their education with as little disruption as possible.

She said the department has been working with Texas super-

intendents to coordinate course credit transfers for displaced graduating seniors.

"That's still a work in progress," she said. "We don't want them to have a bump in the road."

Casper said a major advantage for the students was the statewide record system. If the hard copies of their transcripts and records were destroyed, that information still is in a database system, so the state was able to send a copy to the students' new schools.

She said it was difficult to determine how many students are in the Louisiana public school system because the numbers still are fluid.

All but one of the 152 Mississippi school districts were up and running as of last week, said Caron Blanton, public relations director for the Mississippi Department of Education. She said one district is scheduled to open Nov. 1.

Blanton said that if students are not able to return to their home districts, online courses and dual enrollment in community colleges are options available to them.

"We expect them to complete their education on time and move on to the next step," Blanton said.

Like Louisiana, most of the schools in Mississippi in the most damaged areas are on a shift schedule, in which one group of students attends class earlier in the day and another later in the day. This maximizes the use of a school.

While education is available to

students in the Gulf Coast states, problems with graduating might arise.

Bavaria said students need to be aware of what help they need and how to get it.

"Whenever you recognize you need help, you need to get it as soon as possible," he said. "You need to get yourself in a learning environment as quick as you can."

He said students should go to class, do their work and seek help from teachers and guidance counselors to make the most out of their education.

"It's up to the adults in their lives to be helpful," Bavaria said. "Teachers in the students' new schools need to be aware that they need to catch up on content and that they have lots of other needs that need to be taken care of."

He said flexibility also is important because it allows students to adapt to their new schools. Bavaria said colleges have been good about taking into account students' hurricane experiences in accepting them and making accommodations for them.

He said their experiences might even benefit them in the college admissions process.

"I can't imagine any college admissions officers not right away seeing the value in an essay about their survival of Katrina," he said.

"Out of adversity comes good results, in many cases, if you allow it to happen."

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

New office getting off ground

BY ERIN ZUREICK
STAFF WRITER

Walking along Porthole Alley, it can be easy to miss the discreet black metal door that seemingly blends into the brick building.

The only indication that something is going on behind these walls is a small, white sign and a buzzer that advertises the University's ombuds office.

This aura of secrecy and informality is just the impression the office wants to give, said Wayne Blair, one of the University's two ombudsmen.

The office, which has been open since May, offers University employees dispute-resolution services and plays an advisory role in grievance procedures.

It was created to fulfill the top recommendation of a task force charged two years ago to find ways to improve the working environment of UNC's employees.

And the office's location helps to further its principles of confidentiality, neutrality and independence, Blair said.

"It was purposely put here," he said. "People really do appreciate that they can come to the office discreetly and exit discreetly."

Blair, who previously served as associate ombuds at Columbia University, works full-time in the office, and Laurie Mesibov, splits her time between the office and the School of Government. Both assumed their roles in February.

Staff, faculty and administrators can arrange meetings with the ombudsmen on an individual or group level.

Employees can come to the ombudsmen with problems rang-

ing from violations of University policy to communication problems, Blair said.

"We listen and we offer suggestions, and they decide what's best for them," Mesibov said. "Some people come once and others come back again. Every conversation is different."

Tommy Griffin, chairman of the Employee Forum, said employees often have problems that can be solved simply by talking to an impartial person.

"Sometimes you just need to sit down and talk about things and get that neutral listener," Griffin said. "And if nothing else, you get to look at both sides of an issue."

Blair said the office is starting from the ground up and must work to gain the trust of the UNC community if it is to achieve its goals.

"I think confidentiality is the key," he said. "On the basic level, it means we don't do anything unless given explicit permission."

No records are kept of meetings between the ombudsmen and employees, Blair said. But the office does track trends and keep data in an aggregate form.

"When we begin to notice a trend... we will strategize how best to bring the information forward," Blair said. "The decision-makers have the option to improve what may be a problem."

Blair said the number of people who visit the office each day varies — but since May, the ombudsmen have dealt with more than 100 cases.

And though secrecy serves an important function, leaders said the office also must openly advertise the opportunities it offers.

"We still need to get the word



Ombudsman Wayne Blair says his office is working on promoting its activities to the campus.



Ombudswoman Laurie Mesibov says staff and administrators are using the office the most.

out," Griffin said. "It takes a while to get the words out to thousands of folks."

Blair said he and Mesibov have spoken to a number of groups including the Employee Forum and the Faculty Council to help publicize the office.

"It's an ongoing process to educate the campus," Mesibov said. So far, staff and administrators have taken advantage of the office most often, Blair said.

To create accountability, Blair said he plans to issue an annual report that will detail key issues the office faces without disclosing any individual cases.

He said the office must work to establish its reputation if it is to be successful in the coming years.

"People will only come to us and talk about these highly sensitive issues if they trust us," he said.

"Our goal is to create an ombuds office that is second to none."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Barry Silk

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

ACROSS

- 1 Tableland
- 5 Prod
- 9 Don or Samuel
- 14 In the thick of
- 15 Jason's craft
- 16 Bottled spirit?
- 17 Cardinal of legends
- 19 Fairy-tale creature
- 20 Pub preference
- 21 Vanity
- 22 Paired up
- 24 Interferes
- 26 Curd's partner
- 27 Mtn. stat
- 28 Luau dish
- 29 Martial arts school
- 33 Durable trousers
- 36 Actress Laura
- 37 Building beam
- 38 The yoke's on them
- 39 White with age
- 40 Like a lot
- 41 Agile
- 42 Off course
- 43 Twinkle
- 44 Head cover
- 45 NBC classic
- 46 —Magnon
- 47 Caesar's accusation
- 49 Rear
- 53 Riga native
- 56 Thanksgiving tuber
- 57 Lennon's Yoko
- 58 Watch for

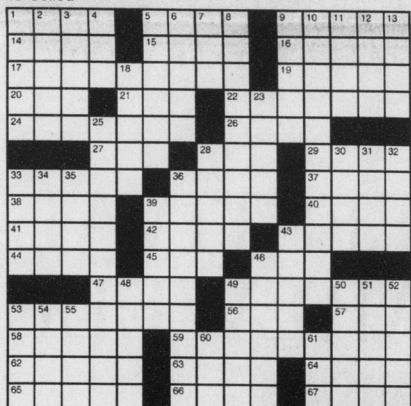
- 59 Mel Blanc voice
- 62 Mediterranean island
- 63 Coup d'—
- 64 Feast the eyes on
- 65 Bridge support
- 66 Bryan Ferry's group, Music
- 67 Passing buck?

DOWN

- 1 Lady's title
- 2 Novelist Zola
- 3 Sorted by dimension
- 4 Wood-shaping tool
- 5 Gizmo
- 6 Cookie treats
- 7 Old Turkish title
- 8 Comforting words
- 9 Texas A&M student
- 10 "Dream On" co-star
- 11 Shortly
- 12 Play charades

TUMS APACE STOW
INIT LORNA CUBE
DISAPPOINTMENTS
ION GOD SANDAL
ENOLA LEB EERIE
SIMA MESAS ANY
TSETSE TWIRL
TRIALBALLLOONS
NOTIT AERIES
TAT SLEDS NCAA
ALICE LSU BEEFY
PLEATS BAR TRI
PERPETUALMOTION
AGEE ATRIP DENG
NEDS YARNS SSTS

- 13 Ranked player
- 18 Raises one's voice
- 23 Habitually complaining
- 25 "Taxi" co-star
- 28 Oyster's prize
- 30 Hautboy
- 31 Jakarta's island
- 32 Utah city near Provo
- 33 Rib
- 34 Trade show
- 35 Dynamic starter?
- 36 Australia's location
- 39 " la vista, baby!"
- 43 Soiled



Va. Tech paper takes on ad ban

Alcohol displays subject of debate

BY LAURA PHELPS
STAFF WRITER

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University newspaper is challenging the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for not allowing it to publish advertisements for local bars.

Rebecca Glenberg, a lawyer from the American Civil Liberties Union, has been hired by the university's student-run publication, The Collegiate Times, to pursue the case.

She said that the real issue is about students being able to use their own judgment to determine what to publish in their newspapers and that it is not the state's right to intervene.

"It's a serious First Amendment issue," she said. "The state doesn't have a real interest in telling a student newspaper what it can and cannot advertise."

Virginia state law holds that

"advertisements of beer, wine, and mixed beverages are not allowed in student publications unless in reference to a dining establishment."

Such advertisements are, however, allowed if there is no "reference to particular brands or prices," and as long as the ad uses a limited selection of words and phrases such as "ABC on-premises," "beer," "wine," "mixed beverages" and "cocktails."

The law states that such newspapers are distributed or intended to be distributed primarily to people under the age of 21.

Because such a large number of college students are underage, the law allows student-run publications to publish advertisements for local bars as long as the message promotes responsible drinking.

Robert O'Neil, a professor of law and director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression at the University of Virginia, said this is not the first time the law has been challenged.

"We actually looked a couple of years ago at a possible challenge," he said. "At that time there was a local restaurant that seemed to want to take it on."

But he said the restaurant had little success in getting the law changed.

"We thought that it was a fairly persuasive case, but we never went far enough into it to get down the fine points," he said.

O'Neil said that he was interested to learn that The Collegiate Times now is challenging the law and that he thinks it has a presentable case.


"The ABC rules prevent advertising of happy hour in a publication that is aimed primarily at a student audience," he said.

"The kinds of arguments we had thought might be worth making would be that such a law prevents conveying information to adults — people of age — who certainly have every right to receive that information."

Glenberg said Wednesday that the ACLU has written the ABC about its challenge to the law but that she has not yet received a response.

"We hope that we can resolve this without litigation, but we are prepared to file a lawsuit if necessary."

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



Carolina Challenge

connect • create • launch

www.carolinachallenge.org

\$50,000 IN CASH PRIZES

Information Sessions

October 25th • 7:00 pm
Union 3503

October 26th • 6:00 pm
Union 3502

October 27th • 7:00 pm
Union 3503

www.carolinachallenge.org

Carolina PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

one wonders if there is a more purely...
satisfying violinist than Midori right now



MIDORI & CHARLES ABRAMOVIC
tuesday, october 25
memorial hall, chapel hill


A glittering ambassador for jazz, Dee Dee Bridgewater is long recognized as one of the finest and most versatile jazz vocalists of her generation. She is joined by Marian McPartland, one of the greatest jazz piano legends alive.



DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER & MARIAN MCPARTLAND
thursday, october 27
memorial hall, chapel hill

MEMORIAL HALL GRAND OPENING SEASON
919.843.3333

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHapel Hill



WORLD FAMOUS HALLOWEENIST

→ SURPLUS SID'S

Adult costumes
rent for as low as \$12

Create-your-own,
packaged or rental
costumes available

SURPLUS SID'S

309 E. Main • Carrboro
942-7127

EXTENDED HOURS FOR HALLOWEEN!