

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Kaze, DJ 9th Wonder to open Oct. 30 Homecoming show

Hip-hop artist Kaze and DJ 9th Wonder are scheduled to perform at UNC's Homecoming concert at 8 p.m. Oct. 30 in Memorial Hall. Hip-hop artist Common is the headliner for the show.

A UNC alumnus, Kaze helped create Hip-Hop Nation, an on-campus organization to foster the growth of local MCs, poets, DJs, dancers and graffiti artists.

His production experiences led to the establishment of his own record label, Soul Dojo Inc.

9th Wonder — who has worked with artists such as Jay-Z, Destiny's Child and Jean Grae — began producing while in college at North Carolina Central University, where he met friends and collaborators who now form The Justus League, including Little Brother.

The Homecoming concert is presented by the Carolina Athletic Association and the Carolina Union Activities Board.

It is funded at least in part by student fees that were appropriated and dispersed by student government.

'Tar Heels for Tots' concert benefits children's hospital

Eight campus a capella and dance groups performed at the "Tar Heels for Tots" concert, which was held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday in Carmichael Auditorium.

The concert was the brainchild of "Carolina Guardian Angels," a group of four students in a small-group communications class that was assigned to develop, promote and conduct a fundraiser for a local, national or international organization.

The class assignment turned into a charity concert with more than 75 in attendance.

The proceeds from the concert will benefit N.C. Children's Hospital at UNC.

Members of Carolina Guardian Angels estimated they sold more than 250 tickets to the show, which cost \$10 each.

Private donations covered the estimated \$1,300 needed to rent out Carmichael Auditorium and pay for maintenance and security personnel, so 100 percent of the ticket sales will benefit the hospital directly.

CITY BRIEFS

Ellis named principal of the year in Chapel Hill/Carrboro

Culbreth Middle School principal Jacqueline Ellis has been selected as the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Principal of the Year for 2005-06.

Ellis, a University alumna, became principal of Culbreth in July 2003, having previously served as a principal intern at East Chapel Hill High School in 1999, as a teacher in the Pitt and Guilford county school systems and as an assistant principal at Riverside High School in Durham.

"Jackie is a strong school leader who has brought about some dramatic improvements to Culbreth Middle School," said Neil Pedersen, city schools superintendent.

The principal of the year is selected by the district principals' group.

Ellis will prepare a portfolio and will be a candidate for regional principal of the year — an honor that will be designated in February 2006.

STATE & NATION

Two White House aides await federal grand jury's ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald huddled with his legal team Thursday as two key White House aides awaited their fate in the CIA leak probe.

A spokesman for the prosecutor said there would be no public announcements Thursday.

The term of the grand jury that could bring indictments expires Friday.

The White House braced for the possibility that Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, could become a criminal defendant by week's end.

Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove, remained in jeopardy of being charged with false statements.

Libby and Rove arrived for work at the White House on Thursday as usual. Rove attended the daily meeting of the senior staff, but Libby did not and was said to be in a security briefing.

Libby misses senior staff about half the time because of intelligence briefings and other issues on Cheney's schedule, an official said.

— From staff and wire reports.

Suspects nabbed after chase

BY TED STRONG
CITY EDITOR

In Hillsborough on Wednesday night, a carload of men perpetrated two armed robberies, then led police on a high-speed pursuit, authorities say.

Kyle Eugene Joseph Strickland and Jermaine Jasper Sherman, both 20, brandished shotguns and William Donnell Neal, 19, wielded a "funky-looking" knife on their brief spree, Hillsborough police said. All three listed Raleigh addresses.

Each suspect was charged with two counts of armed robbery, and Sherman, who lived in Hillsborough five or six years ago, was also charged with fleeing police. All three were incarcerated in Orange County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bond and appeared in Court of First Appearance in Hillsborough on Wednesday.

Hillsborough police said that at about 10 p.m. a pair of Hillsborough men exiting a car were attacked at

7 Cates Court.

The three men, all of whom have previous arrests, then made off with \$40 in cash and a wallet valued at \$15, according to police reports.

Roughly half an hour later, police say, the men were at it again, this time at the corner of North Nash and Revere streets.

According to police, they deprived a pair of Mebane residents of a wallet, a South Pole jacket, \$600 in cash and a driver's license. Reports valued the stolen property at \$780.

But the suspects, when they confessed to police, disavowed any knowledge of the cash, claiming that while they stole the jacket, the wallet was nowhere to be seen, police say.

Hillsborough Detective Myron Bigelow said group members claimed that if they had grabbed \$600, they would have left and not gone past a BP station at the intersection of N.C. 86 South and Interstate 85 where

a member of the Orange County Sheriff's Department was waiting.

When he heard of the robberies, Lt. Charlie Ragan and a deputy headed straight for the gas station, on a hunch that a late-night crime spree might head that way.

They were in the parking lot, Ragan said, as Sherman drove his mother's 2002 Chrysler Concorde past the gas station. Thinking the vehicle might be the one, the officers headed off to follow it.

The suspect vehicle pulled into a truck stop, and when sheriff's officers tried to cut it off, Sherman pulled a sharp U-turn and sped off down N.C. 86 to New Hope Church Road and then onto Interstate 40, Blackwood said.

Blackwood said the vehicle reached more than 100 mph as it sped down the curvy country roads and onto the interstate. Along the

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William Donnell Neal was charged with two counts armed robbery.



Jermaine Jasper Sherman was charged with two counts armed robbery, fleeing police.



Kyle Eugene Joseph Strickland was charged with two counts armed robbery.

Cadets prep for annual event

Utilize morning training sessions

BY ERIN ZUREICK
STAFF WRITER

Long before the sun rose or the birds began their early morning songs, UNC Army ROTC cadets gathered Monday at Hooker Field to practice military training exercises.

And though it was before most students begin their morning shuffle, the physical training was part of the normal routine for these cadets who will represent UNC this weekend at the Ranger Challenge.

The annual event, held in Ft. Pickett, Va., will pit two teams of 10 UNC cadets against cadets from nearly 30 regional college ROTC programs.

Cadets will compete in eight events — including a hand-grenade assault course and a ruck march — for the chance to win first place for a second-straight year.

Members of UNC's Ranger Challenge A team practiced Monday morning for the hand-grenade course they will navigate Saturday. Armed with fake munitions, cadets scampered between orange cones and blue recycle bins as they attempted to "destroy" a soccer goalpost that served as a bunker.

Cadet Conchita Brown, a junior who is competing in the challenge for her third year, said team leaders are emphasizing drills like these because this year's squad is younger and less experienced than in the past.

"It's like any young team," she said. "We all have talent, it's just experience we're lacking."

And as the A team looks to defend its title, the cadets have high expectations of themselves.

"Our main goal is to win," said senior Rob Berra, a co-captain of the team. "We've got to defend our title."

Dozens of morning drills since early September have prepared the cadets for the exercise, Berra said.

"We're as ready as we can be," he said. "There's really not an event that we haven't covered."

Cadet leaders said this year that they have placed a larger emphasis on physical endurance, which calls for morning drills and marches five days a week.

It's a big commitment," said Japheth Barkman, a senior captain for the B team. "It's who is willing to put the time and effort in."

Cadets said they often struggle to balance the training sessions with their academic requirements.

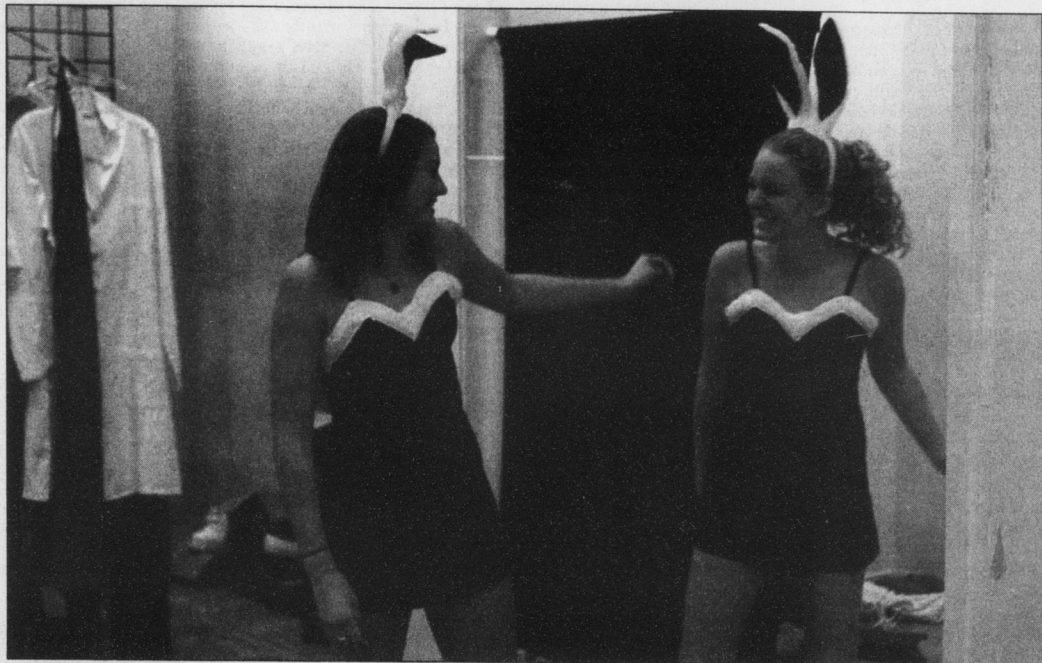
Freshman Dom Lerario, a cadet on the A team, said Ranger Challenge training has helped him move smoothly into the University by teaching him good time-management skills.

"I know that I have to be in bed by a certain time," he said. "It's about getting the important stuff done first."

David Coon, a junior member of the A team, said cadets must prioritize in order to be successful.

"Our grades or our sleep or

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Green Hope High students Molly Miller (left) and Katie D'Jernes try on bunny costumes Thursday at Halloween Express in Durham.

LOCAL STORES BEWITCH CUSTOMERS IN WANING HOURS

Offer wide selection of costumes, accessories

BY SHANNAN BOWEN
SENIOR WRITER

Dear last-minute shopper: Today, Saturday, Sunday and Monday — that's all you've got to purchase that perfect Halloween costume.

But don't fret. Several local stores are extending hours and services to help Halloween enthusiasts dress their best — or worst.

As a procrastinator, you might want to consider the fact that many of your favorite ideas already might be hanging in the closets of other consumers.

Several store managers say the most popular costumes include Star Wars creatures, sexy career outfits and Hollywood film characters.

Extreme Halloween Inc., an online costume shop and resource, lists Princess Leia and Darth Vader as its top-selling costumes.

Tim Robinson, store manager of Party City, located at 5402 New Hope Commons Drive, says the store offers a Darth Vader costume for about \$100 — one of the most expensive among the store's 200-style selection.

"You can probably name it, and we got it,"

Robinson says. "From Star Wars to Batman to Raggedy Ann ... from the ketchup and mustard bottle to the toilet."

Victor Sgroi, sales manager of Halloween Express at The Streets at Southpoint, says the store offers both costume kits and accessories to create your own costumes.

The 2,000-square-foot seasonal store constantly receives new stock, Sgroi says.

"Pirates seem to be really popular," he says. For women, a brand called Leg Avenue seems to be sought after, Sgroi says. "They're oriented to your typical college girl," he says. They're really tight fitting and revealing."

Sgroi says that people also come looking for accessories to create costumes.

"Pimps are selling like mad," he says, adding that sets come complete with canes, rings that say "gangster" across them and other jewelry.

Other accessories include hypodermic needles with false blood and foam breasts.

Sid Keith, owner of Surplus Sid's at 309 E. Main St. in Carrboro, says he has about 4,000 costumes in stock available for all ages.

Keith also offers assistance in putting

together costumes with a variety of accessories and masks. This year he's aided people looking for crocodile masks or items to create a costume meant to look like the king in Burger King commercials.

"I've sold a number of crowns for people trying to put that together."

He also rents out the "unlicensed nuclear accelerator" — the weapon used in "Ghostbusters" movies — for \$32.

And if you don't want to purchase a costume, you can rent one of 700 available from Dance Design, at Rams Plaza at 1728 Fordham Blvd. The store offers adult costumes, wigs and accessories ranging from \$10 to \$75.

Owner Gracie Kirchgessner says the store is different from most others in that it rents out wigs from every time period and in every color, including mullets, clowns and Afros.

Kirchgessner, like many store owners, is expecting this weekend to be their busiest time in terms of selling Halloween goods.

Some are expecting hundreds — even thousands — to roam their aisles.

"It's going to be a mob scene," Sgroi says.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

Montross speaks on matters of faith

BY KERRY CANNITY
STAFF WRITER

Eric Montross, member of the 1993 UNC National Championship basketball team and current Tar Heel basketball commentator, told a room full of students about his life off the court.

Montross, who recently replaced Mick Mixon as the color commentator for UNC men's basketball games on the Tar Heel Sports Radio Network, spoke Thursday night in Carroll Hall.

Last year, Montross provided the commenting during the pregame, half time and post-game breaks.

But his visit Thursday focused on another aspect of his life — something he said is more important to him than his basketball career.

He put his accolades aside and focused on universal issues of faith that he shares with others.

"I think we can all identify with some things because we're people," he said. "But not height, because you all aren't seven feet tall."

Montross' speech, titled "His Life, His Love," was sponsored by



Former center Eric Montross spoke Thursday about his faith in God and how to live as a Christian.

the campus InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

He told students about his experience as a child with God and how he feels people of faith should live.

He did not attend church as a child, but when he was 10 years old, he started talking to his family about faith and was baptized three years later.

Though he has given speeches about his faith before, he says that he does not like to preach to people. "As far as religion goes, I don't feel comfortable talking about a lot," he said.

Montross said he believes that it is not just about being a Christian — to be faithful, one must actively

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Home-schoolers set own education

BY NATALIE HAMMEL
STAFF WRITER

After coming home from school one afternoon, a then-8-year-old Rosa Brown asked her mother, "Mom, why can't you home-school me?"

That was the first time the word "home school" was ever spoken in the house, says Susan Burkholder, Brown's mother.

Brown, now 16 years old, is one of thousands of students in the state choosing a home education.

Statistics from the N.C. Division of Non-Public Education estimate that in the 2004-05 school year, 58,780 students were home-schooled.

And numbers have shown a steady growth rate in recent years. "It really has gone mainstream," says Hal Young, president of North Carolinians for Home Education.

Brown was home-schooled in the fourth grade, then went back to public school for several years and now is home-schooled again. She classifies herself as an "unschooler" because



Hayley Grassler examines a specimen while her sister, Abbey, and mom, Patti Holt Grassler, discuss the day's science lesson in their house Wednesday.

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