

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## A SIMPLE GESTURE



Freshman Artis L. Johnson Jr. holds a candle at the on-campus vigil for Rosa Parks held Wednesday evening. Organized by the UNC chapter of the NAACP and co-sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Inc. and the Black Student Movement, the vigil saw a small turnout of almost 100.

DTH/KATE LORD

BY DEBORAH NEFFA STAFF WRITER

Enclosed in a circle inside the Pit, students joined together Wednesday evening to share a moment of candlelit silence in honor of Rosa Parks.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Inc., UNC's chapter of the NAACP and the Black Student Movement held a vigil to commemorate Parks — a civil rights movement leader who died last week at the age of 92.

More than 100 people attended the event, which coincided with Parks' funeral in Detroit that morning.

"It is important that we as students take time to remember the civil rights movement and its pioneering spirits," said Danielle Allen, Alpha Kappa Alpha president.

Parks was an outstanding citizen and a benign figure from America's past, Allen said, making her an ideal role model for generations to come.

A cappella groups Harmonyx and Vision sang for the event and members of Ebony Readers/Onyx Theatre performed solo skits emphasizing Parks' fight for equality for all races and her courage to speak out.

"Rosa Parks was one of the most prominent civil rights leaders of the 20th century," said Ashley Heilprin, president of UNC's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"It would be crazy if organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha didn't recognize her and honor her like a saint," she said, adding that Parks herself was a member of the national sorority.

Those who attended the vigil lit their candles by passing the flame from person to person.

BSM President Brandon Hodges said the event was aimed at fostering a sense of community and providing people with

the opportunity to share their thoughts and acknowledge Parks' contributions.

"Even though there have been elections and events and such over the past week, we want to show campus we didn't forget her memory," Hodges said.

Matthew Wynter, a senior member of Ebony Readers, said he sees Parks as a figure who made the nostalgia of the civil rights movement of the 1950s seem real.

"What's more important than her life or refusing to get up on the bus is for us to realize how easy it is to stand for something — or in her case to sit for something," he said.

Parks' refusal to move from her seat on a segregated bus sparked the civil rights movement and continues to inspire today.

"It was a simple act, but it was a bold

SEE VIGIL, PAGE 4

## Church divided about gay ministers

N.C. Methodists vary in reaction to decision

BY KRISTEN POPE STAFF WRITER

With the United Methodist Church confronting the issue of gay ministers, North Carolina congregations are coping with the challenge of ministering to a divided pew.

The church's national-level judicial council ruled Monday that Beth Stroud, a lesbian, cannot continue as a Methodist minister. Stroud ignited controversy in 2003 when she told her Philadelphia congregation of a relationship with her female partner.

The council decision was based on the church's law that practicing homosexuals may not hold a ministry position.

"It is based on the statement that we see the practice of homosexuality as incompatible with Christian teachings," said Ned Hill, superintendent of the church's Raleigh district.

"Therefore, to ordain and put a person in places of leadership when they have a lifestyle that is incompatible with Christian teaching doesn't make sense."

But the church does distinguish between allowing homosexuals in the ministry and allowing them in the congregation.

"We acknowledge and celebrate those persons in the life of our congregation, but at this point they would not be eligible to be in a place of ordained ministry," Hill said.

He said the church believes homosexuals are persons of sacred worth, even if the church does not condone their behavior.

Across the state, each congregation differs on its level of acceptance of homosexuals.

Some UMC pastors and members might disagree with the Church's stance on homosexuality, Hill said.

Laurie Coffman, pastor of Calvary United Methodist Church in Durham, is among the dissenters.

"I am appalled that we would do the things we've done the last few days," she said. "I think it's very regretful and divisive." Her congregation does not support

SEE METHODISTS, PAGE 4

## University in step with tradition

BY LEAH KONEN STAFF WRITER

The "Divine Nine" will shake the stage tonight at Memorial Hall for the National Pan Hellenic Council's annual step show.

And for the first time ever, a non-NPHC group, Psi Sigma Phi multicultural fraternity Inc. will perform with the University's eight historically black fraternities and sororities.

"It's history made," says senior Andrae Banks, step master for Psi Sigma Phi.

The art of stepping certainly has a history worth telling. Its

presence, both at UNC and on the national level, stems from a variety of traditions and influences that began decades ago.

**INSIDE** "It's an American form," says Jacquie Malone, author of "Steppin' on the Blues: The Visible Rhythms of African American Dance."

"It's influenced by African practices," she says. "But it started in this country. It was the coming together of many different African

**YOU WANNA' STEP?**

Time: 7 p.m.  
Date: today  
Location: Memorial Hall

Diaspora forms."

During the 1960s, many fraternities and sororities performed dances on the quads of historically black colleges, Malone says.

As it developed, stepping borrowed from these dances and others, including cheerleading, line dancing, tap dancing and the choreography of popular music groups

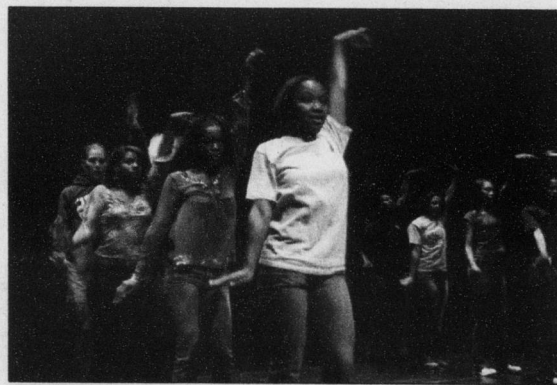
of the 1960s, Malone says.

"It began with Motown," says senior Charles Clemons, president of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity Inc. He says people began mimicking groups such as the Four Tops and the Temptations.

"It comes out of African-American performance traditions such as dance, music and song," Malone says. "This chanting, this call and response, it's a coming together of all of those things."

Despite a wide variety of influences, stepping was not a solid

SEE STEPPING, PAGE 4



University students (from back left to front) Theresa Nicholas, Moneika Owens, Loreal Neal and Kareemah Lewis practice a step dance routine.

DTH/BETH ELY

### WHY DID YOU VOTE EARLY?



**Katie Baer**  
Senior,  
Environmental  
Sciences and  
Chemistry

"(Voting is) a good way to be involved in the community."



**Elizabeth Matteson**  
Senior,  
Religious  
Studies

"The local elections are more important ... you have more of an impact."

Vote early at Morehead Planetarium and Science Center through Nov. 5, Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Area 'feel' linked with getting around

BY KATHY CHO STAFF WRITER

For Martha Hadden, Chapel Hill's walkability is a reason to live here. The Hanft Knoll resident said she often takes three walks a day.

But bikeability is another matter, said Hadden. "There's hardly anywhere you can go on a bike path, except in Carrboro," she said, adding that it is difficult to bike safely from Franklin Street into Carrboro.

Both Chapel Hill and Carrboro have promoted walking, biking and busing in recent years by instituting various requirements, such as sidewalks for new developments.



**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2005**  
Issue Spotlight  
**ECO-FRIENDLY TRANSIT**

Friday: How candidates plan to improve housing costs for a growing number of area workers

Now, candidates for the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen are looking to follow in those footsteps, throwing in a few moves of their own.

Chapel Hill incumbent Ed Harrison has a suggestion for the future: bus rapid transit, an express service that runs on a fixed path. Compared to light-rail transit,

such buses would be more cost-efficient and also flexible enough to reach residential areas more readily, Harrison said.

It also could be as rapid as its name. "(The buses) might go from Carolina North to main campus with no stops," he said.

Meanwhile, the town could work on making some places more bike-friendly. "The larger (state) roads are kind of a tight fit for a bicyclist," said Harrison, an avid cyclist.

Council candidate Jason Baker said more money should go into sidewalks, which deteriorate noticeably moving out of the downtown

corridor into surrounding neighborhoods.

Baker also supports the fare-free Chapel Hill Transit bus system but has suggestions for improving it.

First, Baker said, buses should come more frequently in order to lessen riders' dependence on a schedule. And weeknight and weekend service could be expanded to 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. in student-dense areas, he added.

Baker also thinks that more buses would prevent overcrowding and that long-term costs could be

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**TOUGH LOVE** City schools review a proposal for toughening exam standards

**CHIPPING AWAY** Changes to U.S. passports spark privacy concerns for some

**STREAMING IN** Carrboro town staff begin streaming Aldermen minutes online

campus | page 2

**A FEW TOUCHUPS**  
Officials soon will begin a series of renovations to Gerrard Hall, including the installation of air conditioning and the hall's first bathroom.

dive | page 5-8

**A REAL PLAYMAKER**  
The PlayMakers Repertory Company celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The group remains one of the few University-owned companies.



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**SHELL-SHOCKED**  
The No. 3 Tar Heels defeat Maryland with a flurry of three goals in the first 10 minutes. They look to take revenge against Duke on Friday.

weather

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