

Harold Thomas of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh steps with other members of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity Inc. in Memorial Hall on Thursday.

Greeks strut stuff at annual contest

to a wedding reception.

blue-collar cause

The winning teams had two of

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc.

"This step show is dedicated to

They banged the stage with

trash can lids and brooms and

even included a shoutout to Robert

Moore, who drives the U-route for

Chapel Hill Transit.
"Everybody is somebody," they

chanted, noting his trademark

Delta Sigma Theta sorority Inc.

recreated the scene of a football halftime show complete with a

marching band and a cheering sec-

dancers at one point and danced despite the hindrance of a massive

common, a great deal of pride in their Greek tradition.

"It's about pride in our organiza-tion," said Michelle Green, a Delta member who graduated last year.

"Three hundred and sixty-five

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

days of the year we work on service,

but this is our chance to showcase

what we can do.

An elephant mascot joined the

All the teams had one thing in

tion with pom-poms.

dedicated its performance to a

the workers at UNC going through the struggle," one stepper said

the most crowd-pleasing perfor-

BY KATHRYN BALES

Strobe lights, thumping bass, suggestive gyrations, heated routines and a lot of Greek pride one thing's for sure, this isn't your mom's step show.

Seven fraternities and sororities strutted their stuff Thursday night in this year's UNC Homecoming National Pan Hellenic Council

First place in the competition was shared by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta sorority Inc. Second place went to Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta sorority, Inc

"This was the best show since I've been here my four years," said Chrystal Simmons, a senior.

All the organizations came together to show people what they can do.

"It's a way of expressing," senior Danielle Benjamin said. "Black people are coming together to express themselves. It's positive."

Cheering, singing and dancing were the orders of the evening.
"Greeks make some noise!" said

Suede, the night's emcee. After an opening performance by Harmonyx, the contest got into full

swing with a dance club atmosphere taking control between acts.
"We're going to party," Suede said. "But we're going to party with

peace and harmony."

Each performance had a central theme ranging from The Apprentice Campus groups rally for earthquake victims

In the time of need for millions in South Asia, a dozen student groups have rallied together to support the victims of the earthquake that tore through India and Pakistan last month, leaving more

The Carolina Earthquake Relief Coalition has been working to promote awareness and to raise money for victims of the

than 70,000 people dead and 3

million homele

CERC was formed off the basis of last year's Triangle Tsunami and Duke University — and many of the UNC-CH groups who participated before have joined forces again to help the victims of this natural disaster.

Playing an active role in the Earthquake Relief Coalition are groups including Campus Y committees, the Muslim Students Association, Young Democrats and Sangam, UNC-CH's South Asian awareness organization.

"Essentially the biggest reason behind (CERC) - we saw there wasn't a lot of coverage about it on campus," said Sid Sheth, chair-Relief Coalition — which drew together students from UNC- ATTEND THE DANCE

Time: 7 p.m. to midnight Date: Today

Location: Great Hall Info: www.unc.edu/~srathie/cegro

placement.

Andrew Chen, a member of the Campus Y's executive board, said he was shocked by the number of people who are unaware about the earthquake and its devastating

"The awareness thing is probably the most important," he said.
"When we ask for money, we don't just ask for money.
"We try to tell them what's going

The group is hoping to raise more money through other planned fundraising events.

"We're trying to plan bigger events for students to come out to," Chen said.

The group is sponsoring a traditional Indian Garba dance event from 7 p.m. to midnight tonight in the Great Hall of the Student Union. All proceeds are going to

benefit UNICEF relief efforts.

"The Garba event is our biggest push to get people to come out," Chen said.

The group is hoping that the cultural fundraising event will bring out a diverse group of people.

"We're starting with dinner then we're having a workshop,"

Sangam.
She added that there also will be an Indian band to provide authen-

tic music. "Hopefully that will draw a lot

CERC was looking for a different way to raise money, something that would not only benefit its cause but also be fun for students

Students will have the opportunity to learn and showcase their Garba skills — no partner required. The night's events also will include a short presentation on the earth-

So far, MSA has been the forerunner in raising money by enlist-ing community groups to adopt a child orphaned by the earth-

Both the Chapel Hill community and several campus groups have taken on the project, donating \$500 to help support an orphaned child for a year.

During the past several weeks, CERC groups have raised more than \$20,000 through community and student donations, Chen

"All the money we can get is useful, especially since all the areas affected are poor," Sheth

> Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

UNC receives \$4.5 million to launch research center

BY NICOLE NORFLEET

Campus leaders are taking another stride toward the goal of establishing the University as an international hub for research.

UNC was awarded \$4.5 million by the Environmental Protection Agency for the five-year development of the new Carolina Environmental Bioinformatics Research Center.

The center will create computational methods and tools to be used by the EPA and the rest of the science community.

An equal amount of money has been awarded to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey at Piscataway to establish a similar bioinformatics center.

"It is a little bit different than a grant that the EPA would give to a school and then come back five years later and ask, 'What did you do?" said Robert Kavlock, the toxicology activities director of the National Center for Computational Toxicology. "It is meant to be interactive.

The centers and the EPA will exchange information to advance bioinformatics research.

They will merge computer science, biology and toxicology to assess hazardous contaminants and their effects in the environ-

UNC had to apply to receive the funds and was reviewed on its scientific relevance. Both EPA and campus leaders said they are

excited about the choice.

"This is a competitive office," Kavlock said. "(The centers) were picked because they complemented each other. They had strong but

different strengths."

Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development at UNC, said he is sure the EPA's choice of UNC as one of two recipients of the \$9 million EPA grant was because of "the quality of the proposal and of the people."
"(The Bioinformatics Research

Center) is one of those projects that will help research at the University and the whole community," he

The center at UNC will be divided into three research projects and an administrative unit. The projects will include analysis and development of biostatistics in computational biology, chem-informatics and computational infrastructure for systems toxicology.

The EPA held an information workshop Wednesday at its main campus in Research Triangle Park with representatives from the two new centers to discuss the grants and the EPA's objective with the

"It was the explosion of technologies in biology that made it necessary to do more research," Kavlock said. "We are happy to partner with UNC.

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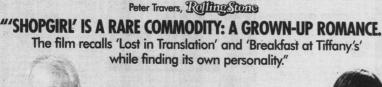
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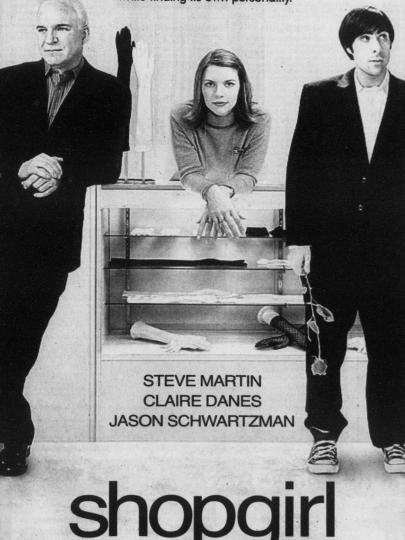
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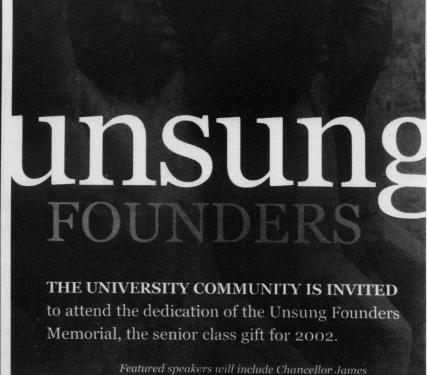
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STARTS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4



Moeser and Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as 2002 senior class officers Ben Singer, president, and Byron Wilson, vice president. The student a cappella will be served. Person Hall will serve as a rain site.

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- ◆ 10 am
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