

The Daily Tar Heel

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AN UNEXPECTED DEPLOYMENT



DTH/LOGAN PRICE

N.C. Army Reserve National Guard Cpl. Bill Alsobrook (far right) carves the ham for his wife, Beth Alsobrook, and in-laws, Eddie and Nell Fields, during their Thanksgiving meal Thursday. Bill Alsobrook spent the holiday, also his wedding anniversary, with his family after spending three years in Iraq and other stations.

BY ERIN GIBSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

For the first time in nearly three years, Cpl. Bill Alsobrook, 30, will spend the holiday season with his family.

He returned Tuesday to his home in Chapel Hill — nine days early — after three weeks of service in New Orleans with the N.C. Army Reserve National Guard.

The unexpected, early departure from duty last week allowed Alsobrook to spend Thanksgiving with his wife and her family in Laurinburg. He spent the last two Thanksgivings training for and serving in Iraq.

"I'm going to cook Bill anything he requests," said Nell Fields, his mother-in-law. And she did.

Turkey, ham, sweet potato casserole and corn pudding were just a few of the items filling plates Thursday.

The Fields' other daughter, Tiffeny, also came home for Thanksgiving dinner. While the women prepared the meal, the men talked and watched football.

"I would definitely say I'm thankful to have my husband back," said Alsobrook's wife, Bethany. "And I'm glad he made it home safely from Iraq."

While Alsobrook said he is happy to be home, he was disappointed that he could not see his 7-year-old daughter, who lives with her mother in Florida. She was supposed to spend

Thanksgiving with Alsobrook, but when he was sent to New Orleans, the plans changed.

"We were told we would be gone until Dec. 1, then Commander Lusk came up and told us ... he'd have us back for Thanksgiving," he said. "We didn't believe it until we saw it."

But Alsobrook said he enjoyed the chance to spend time with his family and to celebrate his wedding anniversary, which he said he has missed three of the past four years.

Alsobrook, a hockey fan, and his wife marked the anniversary by

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Holiday stirs up new experiences

BY NATALIE HAMMEL
STAFF WRITER

Still digesting their turkey and gravy from Thanksgiving dinner, Jackie Yoong, Yvonne Ho and Andrea Jie, exchange students from the National University of Singapore, sat down to watch the annual holiday classic, "A Christmas Story."

"It was really cute," Yoong says. "Our friend was saying it was a classic, so we watched it to see what you guys watch."

Thanksgiving break offered students a variety of opportunities to travel and reconnect with family and friends.

Yoong, Ho and Jie forewent independent travel during the break from school, a popular option for international students.

They opted to celebrate a traditional American Thanksgiving in Cherryville with Roy Upchurch, a sophomore history major, and his family. "I think that it would be nice to travel, but I just thought that this is a really nice way to celebrate Thanksgiving," Yoong says.

Upchurch met Jie last summer when he studied in Singapore and the two became friends.

"We were trying to think of things they had to see when they were over here," he says. "I was like, 'Oh, you have to come to Thanksgiving.'"

The food was a pleasant new experience for the exchange students. Ho says she enjoyed almost everything — her favorite dish was sweet potato casserole.

"I'm trying to learn how to make it because me and my mom, we are both sweet potato fans," she says.

Celebrating the holiday with Upchurch's family reminded Jie of home, she says.

"It's been a long time since I've been with my own family, and it's nice to come and be part of a family over Thanksgiving."

In addition to a traditional Thanksgiving afternoon feast, the Singaporeans also went on a hay-

SEE THANKSGIVING, PAGE 5

VOLLEYBALL WINS ACC TITLE, WILL HOST NCAA

FROM WIRE REPORTS

With a 3-0 victory against Maryland on Saturday, the North Carolina volleyball team clinched the ACC Championship, and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Tar Heels will host the first and second rounds of the Tournament, the NCAA announced Sunday. UNC will take on College of Charleston on Friday at 7 p.m. If the Tar Heels win they will face the winner of Virginia Commonwealth and Purdue.

In the clinching match senior outside hitters Camilla Ihenetu and Dani Nyenhuis combined for 27 kills and just 10 errors for a, 30-26, 30-19, 30-18, victory at Carmichael Auditorium.

Both the Tar Heels (23-9) and the Terrapins (27-4) finished the season with a league record of 18-4, but UNC won the tiebreaker on total head-to-head games won (4-3).

The victory marked the first time UNC has won the regular season ACC title since 2002.

Single-day tickets for the NCAA matches are \$6 for adults, \$5 for students and \$4 for children. UNC students do not get free admission with a UNC One Card.

Tree vendors put on fir

N.C. stands out in holiday-dependent industry

BY DESIREE SHOE
STAFF WRITER

In the sudden chill after Thanksgiving, an army of Christmas trees waits in neat rows at Back Archers Christmas Tree Farm in Raleigh.

Walking with cane in hand, owner Frank Barick is ready to meet the onslaught of holiday tree shoppers.

His Christmas trees, the preparation of which requires long years of planting, fertilizing and shaping, became available for cutting Thanksgiving Day.

And Barick isn't alone. In fact, he's just one of more than 1,600 growers in the state and about 400 choose-and-cut Christmas

SEE XMAS TREE, PAGE 5



DTH/KATHRYN HUGHES

Bruce Barick prepares a live tree for sale during the holiday season at the Back Archers Christmas Tree Farm in Raleigh earlier this month.

HOLLEY MIGHT LEAVE FOR NFL

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The North Carolina football team could have an unanticipated hole to fill next season.

After UNC's season-ending 30-3 loss to Virginia Tech on Saturday, junior wide receiver Jesse Holley said he is considering leaving the University to enter the NFL Draft this spring. Holley was the team's leading wideout this season with 670 receiving yards.

"It's been a thought that I've entertained," Holley said. "We'll see how things go."

If Holley departs, it would be an enormous hole for the Tar Heel offense to fill. The team already is losing quarterback

Matt Baker along with four starters on its offensive line.

Also, three of UNC's top five wide receivers are seniors — Jarwarski Pollock, Derrele Mitchell and Wallace Wright. Mike Mason, who was the team's second leading pass catcher, would be the lone returnee of the group should Holley depart.



Jesse Holley said he might go pro this year.

"I just have to take it one step at a time, go do some things, weigh a couple options out this year, and see what it's like," Holley said.

"Whether I come back or not, a lot of guys are still going to be on this team."

"And we'll just have to take one step at a time ... and figure out what we have to do to be competitive — first half and second half."

AN UNEXPECTED EXIT

BY DANIEL MALLOY
SPORTS EDITOR

The recipe for beating the North Carolina women's soccer team is not a simple one.

First, you need one part experience against UNC's relentless style. Second, you need to throw in an outstanding goalkeeper to withstand the Tar Heels' barrage of shots. And finally, you need a hefty helping of luck.

WOMEN'S SOCCER	
Fla. State	1
UNC	1
(5-4, PENALTY KICKS)	

In Florida State's NCAA quarterfinal victory against the top-seeded Tar Heels at Fetzer Field on Friday, the Seminoles combined all three elements, and then some.

As a result, FSU won, 5-4, on penalty kicks, advancing the 'Noles to just their second final four — and keeping the Tar Heels out for the second time in history, and the second year in a row. Florida State had the first ingredient — the experience of losing,

4-1, to the Tar Heels on Sept. 22.

"Any time you play Carolina for the first time you really can't prepare for it, because they are so athletic and so organized," said FSU coach Mark Krikorian. "We felt that we were much more prepared this time because we had seen them earlier in the year."

As for ingredient No. 2, the Seminoles had not one but two outstanding goalkeepers. For regulation, they had junior Ali Mims, who had a career-high 13 saves. And for penalty kicks they brought

SEE EARLY EXIT, PAGE 5



DTH/LARRY BAUM

Tar Heels Lindsay Tarpley (25) and Kendall Fletcher (4) are rebuffed by a stingy Florida State defense that gave up only one goal on 31 shots.

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error Wednesday's front page article "A blogger's world" misrepresents Derwin Dubose's statements. His three statements quoted in the article were spoken at various points, not chronologically as the article implies. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

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A TUNE UP The Carnegie Foundation revises research university classifications

THE ORANGE REPORT blogs about late-night food availability in Chapel Hill

A DRINK FROM THE WELL blogs about UNC's outreach efforts in the state

city | page 4

'THE OTHER ONE' Downtown Chapel Hill's oft-neglected thoroughfare, Rosemary Street, looks for a revitalization of image with several projects.



sports | page 10

PUNCHING IT IN

Junior transfer Ben Hunter scores two in the Tar Heels' 2-1 win against Virginia on Sunday, helping to advance UNC to the NCAA quarterfinals.

weather

Few Showers
H 71, L 60

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