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Chapel Hill asks Parks to front of bus

DAY OF EVENTS TO HONOR BIRTHDAY OF HISTORIC 'NO'

BY KYLE BILLINGS
STAFF WRITER

Fifty years past, the legacy remains. With the recent passing of Rosa Parks, one of the most famous civil rights activists, Chapel Hill will hold a ceremony in her memory today — the anniversary of the day that Parks

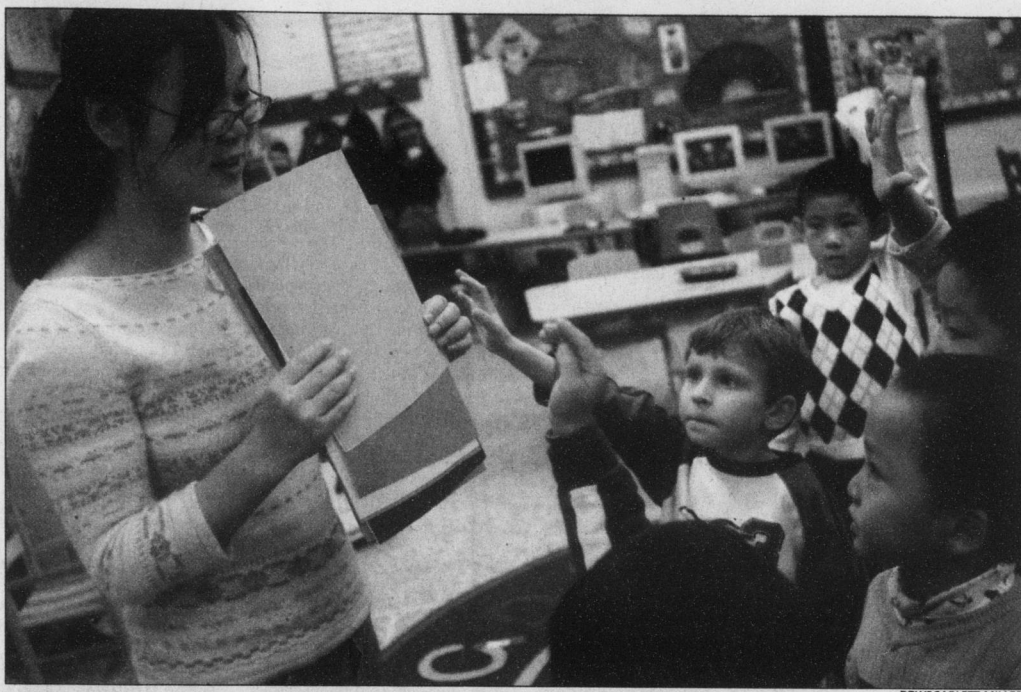
refused to give up her seat. The ceremony will both honor the landmark event's 50th anniversary and pay tribute to the late Parks. At a recent Chapel Hill Town Council meeting, town resident Brenda Brown — who served on the committee that helped to rename

Airport Road in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. — proposed and finalized plans for the processional with approval from the council. Brown said that in remembrance of Parks' actions, a Chapel Hill Transit bus adorned with a photo of the civil rights figure will parade down the recently christened Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The procession is slated to begin at 11 a.m. by the road's intersection with Interstate 40. "I thought it would be beautiful to have a bus, and since Martin Luther King helped her, (it would be fitting) to go down Martin Luther King Boulevard," she said. After the bus procession, events are planned throughout the day at the Hargraves Community Center on North Roberson Street. Community members can enjoy presentations from Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools students, a chorus from McDougle Middle School, guest speakers and a singer. The Chapel Hill-Carrboro

branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is sponsoring the event. Parks herself was a member of the group's national organization. Fred Battle, president of the local branch, said he remembers how he felt after hearing of her actions. "In 1955, I was in junior high, (and) we had a history teacher that kept us up with the current events," he said. "I thought it was very courageous. There was a movement at that

time. The trend was to break down the old Jim Crow laws." Battle said Parks' actions played a fundamental role in the civil rights movement, actions which should not be forgotten. "We have to recall our history," he said. "It's been 50 years, a reminder of the struggle. As part of history we cannot afford to let this go." Chapel Hill Transit interim director Kurt Neufang said the

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Longzhi Lund asks her kindergarten students in Glenwood Elementary School's dual-language class to give the Chinese word for the color of the paper she is holding before they are allowed to leave Tuesday. Chinese language studies are becoming increasingly popular.

DITHSCARLETT MILLER

MAD FOR MANDARIN

BY SARAH WETENHALL
STAFF WRITER

"Mud, mud!" a kindergartner shouts excitedly while jumping around in his Chapel Hill school's yard. His teacher, walking next to him, repeats "niba" — the word for mud in Chinese. This student and his teacher are part of the Mandarin-English dual language program at Glenwood Elementary School, a public school in Chapel Hill. The existence of the program reflects an increasing emphasis on Chinese-related education at all levels. Educators attribute the rising interest in Chinese with the country's growing economic influence. The four-year-old Glenwood program has an even balance of about 80 native Chinese speakers and English speakers. It is a dual immersion program — students are instructed in English for half of the day and are taken to another classroom to be taught in Chinese the rest of the day. Families from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro district can apply to the program, which is offered for students from kindergarten

through third grade. The students are selected using a lottery system. "We try to keep a very pure environment as far as the language goes," says Amy Rickard, principal of Glenwood. No English is spoken in the Chinese classroom. There is only Chinese writing on the posters. The students' names are written in Chinese at their desks. "It's pretty fascinating to me what our kids are able to do," Rickard says. The third-graders in the program can craft simplified Chinese characters into paragraphs and speak Chinese. Sirui Wang, a kindergartner in the program whose parents speak Chinese, says she likes doing the Chinese frog dance with her classmates. Another kindergartner, Thomas Brodey, who's from a non-Chinese background, says it can be difficult to understand when the teacher speaks in Chinese. But asked what his parents think about his participation in the program, he says, "They're proud of me." Longzhi Lund, who teaches Chinese in

the program, says, "I think it's really beneficial for them to learn a different language at such a young age." Lund says that though the English alphabet is phonetic, the Chinese characters are ideographic. Students use a different part of their brain for Chinese. "Learning Chinese characters is very different from learning English," she says. The students' communication skills — both written and oral — have improved since the beginning of the school year, she says. There are differences between the students with Chinese backgrounds and those without it, Lund says. "It's a great challenge to cater to the diverse needs of the class." Lund's students come from a variety of backgrounds. Some were adopted from China by American parents. For them, the program connects them to their native country. Some have Chinese parents, while others simply have families that are interested

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IFC anoints van der Vaart as next leader

BY JENNY RUBY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Rob van der Vaart, a member of Chi Psi fraternity, was elected 2006 president of the Interfraternity Council during a meeting Tuesday night. Van der Vaart will take the position in January from outgoing IFC president Tom Merrihew. "I think it's going to be really great for this upcoming year," Merrihew said. "I think he'll build on some of the successes we made this year and tackle some of the weaknesses." Trey Winslett, a member of Sigma Chi, also ran for the position. The IFC comprises 21 fraternities and is the largest men's organization at UNC. Although this will be his first executive position in the IFC, van der Vaart is no stranger to leadership. In fall 2004, he was vice president of Chi Psi and also was the fraternity's representative in IFC for a year. "I had served in roles in my own fraternity," van der Vaart said. "I really wanted to get involved in the IFC because I think that as president I can help get the positive aspects of the Greek system out there." Joining his leadership are Ryan Wilke, from Lambda Chi Alpha, who will serve as vice president of finances; George Thompson, a member of Beta Theta Pi, selected as vice president of internal affairs; Justin Savesky, a member of Pi Lambda Phi, elected vice president of events; Hunter Diefes, a member of Chi Phi, chosen as vice president of judicial; and Seth Glazer, a member of Kappa Alpha, named vice president of recruitment. Van der Vaart said he is looking forward to having diverse representation from different fraternities because it is something that has not happened in previous elections. "I think that's one of the best things that we do have," he said.

"All of these guys have slightly different experiences." Walker Rutherford, who served as IFC president in 2004, said the president's responsibility is to communicate not only with the members of the Greek community, but also with University administrators, alumni and town officials. "You have to learn to really balance the concerns and the positions or perspectives of the fraternities with concerns and perspectives of the University," Rutherford said. "Fraternities are a very significant part of college life for a lot of people. There are a lot of groups out there who have an interest in what fraternities do."



Chi Psi member Rob van der Vaart wants to diversify IFC membership.

Van der Vaart said one of his main motivations for running for president was to increase the positive perception of Greek life on campus. "I wanted to make sure that all the good things we do as fraternity men get out there," he said. Until van der Vaart officially steps into the new role, he and Merrihew will cooperate to ensure a smooth transfer of power. "Right now we're in our transition period," Merrihew said. "I try to be behind the lines ... to let him step into his new role." Van der Vaart said Merrihew will be a valuable resource as he assumes his presidential role. "Obviously I'll be looking to him for some help, particularly in the next couple months," van der Vaart said. "He's given a lot over the last year." Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Police follow through on presence promise

BY TED STRONG
CITY CO-EDITOR

Lately there's been a lot of talk about the safety, or the perceived safety, of Franklin Street. To help combat any problem — real or imagined — the Chapel Hill Police has stepped up its presence in the area. "You'll probably see more officers downtown than we had five years ago, but we'd like to supplement that," said Capt. Chris Blue. Blue also said the eight officers

in the department's police academy will help with presence. The officers will be added in part as a result of additional funding the department wrangled in this spring's budget negotiations. Funding was intended to help fill long-standing gaps in the department's roster. Additional concerns about police presence were raised during this fall's election, when candidates called for better lighting.



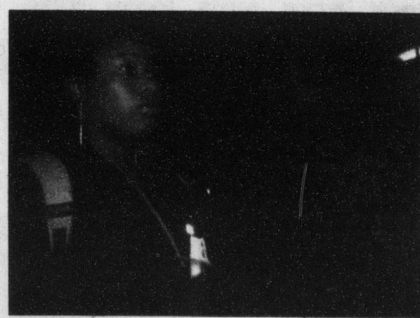
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World AIDS numbers still on the rise

EVENTS TODAY
BY KRISTIN PRAIT
STAFF WRITER

One of the major messages that will come across during today's World AIDS Day events is that HIV infection continues to be a growing epidemic. The latest report from the World Health Organization shows that the number of people living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has reached its highest level yet at 40.3 million people. "The reality is that the AIDS epidemic continues to outstrip global and national efforts to contain it," said Peter Piot, executive director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in a press release. The AIDS Epidemic Update 2005 released by UNAIDS and the WHO looks at HIV prevention and prevalence across the globe. The report states that there were about five million new HIV infections around the world this year, and more than three million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses this year. But the report also stated that adult HIV infection rates have decreased in some countries, such as

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Freshman Anslei Foster reflects quietly while at the AIDS awareness vigil Wednesday night in the Pit.

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JUST RIGHT Students take the heat in a CUAB-hosted healthy eating cook-off
AT IT AGAIN The U.S. Supreme Court hears initial arguments in abortion case
CLICK TO REFRESH Town officials still are unsure how to get wireless downtown

BEHIND THE SCENES The actors of campus theater productions are far from the only principals. Lighting, sound and stage production are as crucial to a program's success.



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FREE AND MERRY Columnist Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute espouses the ideals of free, unabridged capitalism Wednesday at an on-campus talk.

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'THAT SCHOOL' City schools officials seek input on potential names for the district's third high school while also discussing how to redistrict students to fill it.

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