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REMEMBERING KING

Community pays respects

BY JESSICA SCHONBERG
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Before the federal government recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a national holiday, Chapel Hill was one step ahead in honoring the civil rights hero.

In the early 1980s, Chapel Hill Town Council member Bill Thorpe proposed the idea of celebrating King's birthday with a paid holiday.

Thorpe said the idea first was met with opposition but later was embraced by the council and the community.

"Once the leadership showed that that was the thing to do, the community accepted it," he said.

Since then, the community's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration has continued to grow.

Each year there is an interfaith prayer

breakfast early in the morning.

This year's breakfast begins at 8 a.m. at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park on Monday. The event is first come, first serve; doors open at 7:15 a.m.

Later in the morning, a rally is held in front of the Franklin Street post office followed by a march to First Baptist Church on North Roberson Street — just down the road from the Hargraves Community Center where King visited in the 1960s.

The rally will be at 9:30 a.m. Monday outside the post office, and the church event will begin at 11 a.m.

At the church, a keynote speaker makes an address in honor of King.

This year's speaker — the Rev. William J. Barber II, the newly elected president of

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UNC commemorates activist

BY DEBORAH NEFFA
STAFF WRITER

A man of passion and persuasion, Martin Luther King Jr. had a vision of equality, and 77 years after his birth, contemporary society continues the struggle to foster solutions to racial problems.

Although progress has been made since King's assassination in 1968, many Americans still identify shortcomings, and campus leaders say they believe there's still room for improvement at the University.

"If Martin Luther King was still alive today, I think he would tell us that we haven't lived up to what he fought for," said Julius West, vice president of UNC's Black Student Movement. "He would tell us that we're dead wrong."

While UNC generally is considered a progressive school with a relatively

racially diverse campus, issues of race are at times present but disregarded by some as trivial.

"Stop pretending like they don't exist," said BSM President Brandon Hodges.

"By putting a lot of labels and covering it up with a lot of terms like liberal, you don't get rid of racial problems," Hodges said.

For some students the holiday marking King's birth means nothing more than a three-day weekend.

West said he believes that students don't take the time to reflect on the King's messages and don't know enough about his contributions to society.

"If we really understood who he was and what he stood for, we wouldn't continue doing things the way we do," West said.

SEE LEGACY, PAGE 4

Online voting system faulty

Software loophole would pad ballots

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Days before campaigning begins for February's campuswide general election, a loophole in online voting procedure has come to light that would allow for fraudulent ballot stuffing.

Members of the UNC Board of Elections revealed earlier this week a glitch in software that would allow a student voting online to cast two votes for a candidate on the ballot.

Election officials discussed the potential for ballot stuffing Tuesday with members of Student Congress, many of whom will be running for office in the general election Feb. 14.

The glitch allows one vote to be cast for a candidate on the ballot, while another could be cast for the same candidate with a write-in vote, said Jim Brewer, vice chairman of the elections board.

"It's a problem with the software," Brewer said. "We're trying to operate around that."

Election officials said Information Technology Services officials, who work with the board to provide online voting, would not be able to correct the glitch before the February election.

"As far as I know, it's nothing that can be fixed for this election," said Nick Mosley, chairman of the elections board. "They said that they're going to work on it."

Election officials conceded that there are no safeguards to prevent the irregularity aside from it being an infraction of the University's Honor Code.

The fraud would be possible only in Congress races, because that is the only instance when students are voting for multiple positions simultaneously.

The potential impact of the glitch is compounded by the historical precedent of small margins of victory in Congress elections.

Speaker Luke Farley said he and other members were concerned by the possibility of voter fraud, but no steps were taken Tuesday to rectify the situation.

During an interview Wednesday,

SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE 4

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>9 a.m.: At various locations in the Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh areas, local groups will participate in the Martin Luther King Day Community Service Program</p> <p>7 p.m.: 21st Annual University/Community Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Banquet at the Friday Center</p>	<p>7:15 a.m.: The 25th annual Martin Luther King Triangle Interfaith Breakfast will be held at 7:15 a.m. at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, in Research Triangle Park.</p> <p>Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy will give a brief address. The event is first come, first serve and open to the public</p>	<p>9:30 a.m.: Rally begins at the Franklin Street post office. Participants will march to First Baptist Church, 106 N. Roberson Street, for a commemorative service</p> <p>11 a.m.: Rev. William Barber, president of the N.C. chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will give keynote address</p>	<p>5 p.m.: Reinventing the Future through the Past and Present will be presented at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History's Cobb Theatre</p> <p>7 p.m.: An evening of poetry inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. will be presented at the Robert and Sallie Brown gallery and museum at the Stone Center</p>
			<p>6:40 p.m.: Vigil at McCorkle Place, around the Old Well</p> <p>7:30 p.m.: Poet Nikki Giovanni, distinguished professor at Virginia Tech, will deliver the keynote address for the University's celebration week, in Memorial Hall. Tickets will be available at the Carolina Union and Memorial Hall box offices.</p>

Tuition hikes to sail through

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

With proposals due next month for 2006-07 tuition hikes from all 16 UNC-system schools, officials with the system's governing board said Thursday that they are expecting a much smoother approval process than in years past.

By all accounts, the February meeting of the UNC-system Board of Governors will see swift approval of tuition hikes at every campus, following the implementation of clear guidelines that set a cap for increases at each school.

Only one campus — Appalachian State University — has requested an exception to the more specific tuition framework, which was approved by the board in November and is in effect for one year only.

"We really anticipated that there would be a half-dozen campuses that would come in initially and

SEE TUITION, PAGE 4

KOOL AID



DTH/SCARLETT MILLER

Five-year-old Savannah Loftis prepares to place her handprint upon a toy-filled chest donated Thursday to the N.C. Children's Hospital by local Girl Scout Troop 408. Savannah, who is awaiting her second liver transplant, received a toy lamb. Her mother, Renee Loftis, said she appreciates the work of the teenage Girl Scouts. "It

always brings a smile to their faces when someone thinks of them in any way." The Girl Scouts raised money by baby-sitting, selling cookies, asking for donations and through corporate sponsors of the "I'm a Kool Kid" Foundation. They hope to replenish the chest monthly but need help from sponsors. See page 4 for the full story.

NO SMALL TASK IN REBUILDING

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS. — It takes a disaster of monumental scale to propel a new phrase into the language, but that's exactly the kind of disaster that struck this town.

All across Bay St. Louis, and up and down the Gulf Coast, homes flooded by Hurricane Katrina aren't simply being cleaned — they're being mucked out.

This dirtiest, most basic task of hurricane recovery — shoveling out mud, ripping up ruined carpet and sifting through the soaked remnants of strangers' lives — is being carried out every-

day, from dawn to dusk, largely by unpaid volunteers.

From all across the country, from every age group and every possible background, they travel here to work. A week at a time, they donate their energy to chip away at a task almost too overwhelming to tally. While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and private contractors measure their progress by tons of debris, the volunteers measure it house by house.

"These are the kinds of jobs that federal agencies generally won't come in and do," said Heather Hensarling, seated behind a desk at Main Street

United Methodist Church three days after Christmas.

"They'll write you a check, they'll provide you a trailer — but you need to get the fecal matter

PHOTO STORY
Volunteers from across nation

come to affected areas to help in any way, page 6

downtown Bay St. Louis was transformed into a hub for people willing to take on these jobs. Thanks in part to Heather, many of the volunteers working in town have traveled a very long way to

get here.

The Kansas connection

Watching events unfold along the Gulf Coast in the days after Katrina, the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church geared up to respond.

Steve Burnett, disaster response coordinator for the Flint Hills district of the United Methodist Church in Kansas, said he began receiving phone calls almost immediately after the storm.

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 4



DTH/GALEN CLARKE

Volunteer Carolyn Schomer of Warner Robins, Ga., shovels debris from a home in Waveland, Miss., on Dec. 28 as part of general cleanup work in the area.

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NO MORE BOOKS Panel joins in debate about escalating textbook prices

AND THEY'RE OFF UNC's first track and field meet to take place Saturday

BLOGGIN' Discuss proposal to peg tuition to income at Beyond Blue Heaven

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SHOWING OFF

Exhibitions at the Ackland Art Museum will feature a family's work and a tribute to the museum's late curator, Dean Walker.



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NEARING A MILESTONE

A victory against the Wolfpack on Sunday would give women's basketball coach Sylvia Hatchell her 700th win.

today in history

JAN. 13, 1795 ...

University founders set out for a sparsely settled area, then known as New Hope Chapel Hill, where, two days later, they officially will open UNC.

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