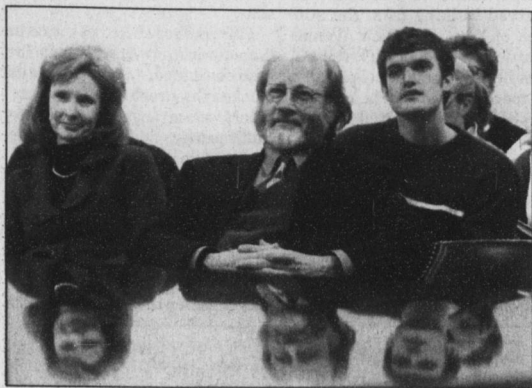


The Daily Tar Heel

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DTH/COURTNEY POTTER

Susan Irons, special programs director, and Bland Simpson, director of creative writing, listen to Joan Didion speak in Greenlaw Hall.

Renowned author takes up residence

BY ANDREW CHAN
STAFF WRITER

Author Joan Didion arrived on campus Sunday as part of a University lecture series, marking one of her first collegiate appearances since the publication of her award-winning memoir last year.

Didion is scheduled to lecture at 7:30 p.m. today in Memorial Hall as part of the Morgan Writer-in-Residence program. The free public lecture is the first time she has spoken at the University.

Creative writing professor Randall Kenan described Didion as "one of the most important writers since World War II."



National Book Award-winner Joan Didion will be at UNC for a series of workshops and programs.

Since the release of her memoir, "The Year of Magical Thinking," Didion has resurfaced as a phenomenon in the press.

In the past four months, she has won the National Book Award, and last week she was ranked at No. 4 on The New York

SEE DIDION, PAGE 10

Town, UNC attached at hip

Historic unease in spite of links

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
CITY EDITOR

"The University and its potential for growth," says traffic engineer W.F. Babcock of Raleigh, "are prime factors in formulating traffic and street plans for the Chapel Hill of the future."

Sound like a recent Chapel Hill Town Council meeting?

Try one from July 1955, according to the front page archives of The Chapel Hill Weekly.

TUESDAY SPOTLIGHT

Despite the changing tides of the town and turnover among council and University officials, the issues the two face invariably have remained the same.

Now as the University is looking beyond its main-campus borders for growth, those conversations are becoming more important than ever — and arguably more tense than they've been in recent memory.

"You really have a piece of geography where there is concurrent government," said Jonathan Howes, director of the University's Master Plan and a former Chapel Hill mayor. "A lot of the conflict that arises, arises over that fundamental fact."

A mixed bag

During the past 50 years, the town has seen constant turnover among its elected officials — nine mayors and about 60 council

SEE TOWN-GOWN, PAGE 10

Town, UNC share history

With Chapel Hill sharing a close proximity to the state's flagship university, contention is inevitable. Regardless of their allegiances, town leaders have had to bear the burden of balancing town-gown interests.

1977
The University sells campus utilities to public companies — BellSouth, OWASA and Duke Power — ceding any control it has over planning policy.

1980
Contentious conversation begins in the summer about University plans to construct what is known today as the Smith Center. Neighbors worry about the center's noise level.

1994
University officials begin looking at potential uses for the Horace Williams tract, initiating a seven-year evaluation. A decade later, the Carolina North concept is born.

2006
Several years of back-and-forth leads to the creation of a University committee charged with drafting guiding principles for the development of Carolina North.

SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES, STAFF REPORTS

Chapel Hill Mayors

1956-60	O.K. Cornwell
	UNC professor of physical education
1961-68	Roland McClamroch
	Son of a faculty member
1969-74	Howard Lee
	Alumnus of the School of Social Work
1975-78	James C. Wallace
	Served as director of Graham Memorial
1979-84	Joseph Nassif
	No University affiliation — an architect in private practice
1985-86	James C. Wallace
	Served as director of Graham Memorial
1987-91	Jonathan Howes
	Director of the UNC Center for Urban and Regional studies
1992-95	Ken Broun
	UNC professor at the School of Law
1996-2001	Rosemary Waldorf
	UNC alumna
2002-06	Kevin Foy
	No affiliation — lawyer in private practice

DTH/FIELDING CAGE

There goes the neighborhood



DTH/ANNA DORN

The backyard of Learideen Alford's Mitchell Lane house is overshadowed by the Rosemary Village condominiums, a four-story building that sits about 13 feet away from her home.

BY MICHAEL TODD
STAFF WRITER

Learideen Alford's house has a few rooms and just one view: of a brick wall and new wooden fence separating her 94-year-old home from the Rosemary Village condominiums.

"I can't sneeze without them hearing me," Alford said, looking out from her kitchen window, which faces the four-story buildings.

Alford's 1,268 square-foot house at 209 Mitchell Lane sits about 13 feet from the northeastern corner of the condos — a little too close for comfort, she said.

This 30-year Chapel Hill resident is one of several witnessing the downtown's large-scale growth from inside their own homes.

Alford's newest neighbor, which builders started Nov. 9, 2004, is quickly nearing completion.

Tom Tucker, the developer of Rosemary Village, said the buildings are 99 percent done.

The buildings will include 38 luxury condos and commercial space.

Chris Ehrenfeld, co-owner of Build Ex Inc., the company building the condos, said they had to squeeze the four buildings onto less than one acre in an already dense area.

He said Thursday that the remaining five residential units — out of 38 — likely would sell this week, when owners finally move in.

A day spa, dessert shop, real estate office and an accountant's office are slated to fill the seven commercial spaces, he said.

"It was obviously fairly tight," he said of the development space.

He added that Alford allowed the company to landscape her side of the fence.

"She basically got a free landscaping from us."

SEE NEXT DOOR, PAGE 10

Community mobilizes in wake of accident

BY BRIAN HUDSON
NEWS EDITOR

In the wake of the death of one its own, the University community is solidifying plans to honor sophomore Keith Shawn Smith.

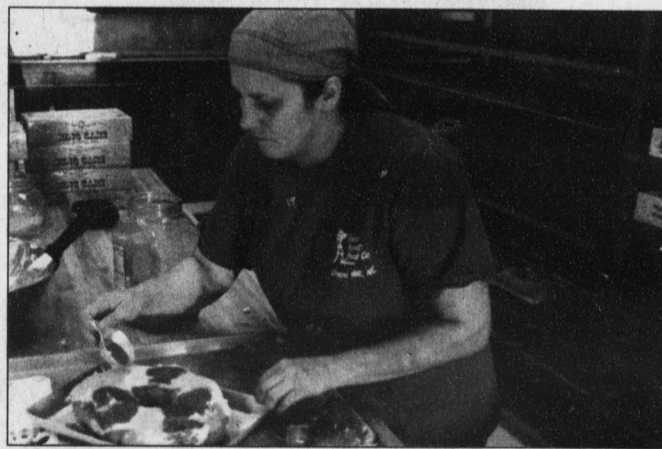
Administrators are organizing for transportation to take students to Smith's memorial service Wednesday in Greensboro.

A sign-up sheet is posted near the mail-

boxes on the first floor of Stacy Residence Hall, the building from which Smith fell to his death, and students also can reserve a spot by going to the community office located between Aycock and Graham residence halls.

The bus can seat up to 75 people, said Winston Crisp, assistant vice chancellor for

SEE MEMORIAL, PAGE 10



DTH/SAMANTHA LEVY

Jennifer Mitchell, an employee at Great Harvest Bread Co. in Chapel Hill, decorates King Cakes with purple, gold and green sanding Monday in honor of Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras slimmed down

BY ERIN GIBSON
SENIOR WRITER

Colorful beads and jazz music will permeate through American towns today to celebrate Fat Tuesday, the last day of the Mardi Gras carnival season.

The majority of the celebration takes place in New Orleans, but Friday, Hillsborough looked a bit like the Crescent City.

Residents donned their green, purple and gold as they paraded down Churton

Street and enjoyed the tastes and sounds of a New Orleans-style Mardi Gras, sponsored by the Hillsborough Arts Council.

"We incorporated all the G-rated elements: music, food and vignettes," said John Delconte, a former Louisiana resident and president of the council.

This year's celebrations will have a unique feel as Wednesday marks the six-

SEE MARDI GRAS, PAGE 10

CORRECTION

Due to a source error, Friday's front page story "Smith, 20, leader, beloved friend" misstates the location of Keith Shawn Smith's funeral service.

A memorial for Smith will be held at New Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

online | dailytarheel.com

GET UP, STAND UP GAO head asks students to wise up to deficit issues

INSURING THE FUTURE The N.C. insurance leader greets campus group

EDITOR'S BLOG Minutes from the Opinion Page redesign lunch bunch

city | page 5

ANOTHER LOOK

Two of the recent victims of pedestrian accidents are found to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of their deaths.

'points | page 9

A FEW LAST WORDS

In light of the enormous amount of feedback in relation to The Daily Tar Heel's cartoon depicting Muhammad, a few parting thoughts are discussed.

today in history

FEB. 28, 1988 ...

A panel of Greek members discuss the segregation of the campus's Greek systems in a forum before about 200 people.

weather

Partly Cloudy
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