

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Drop deadline extended

BY KELLY GIEDRAITIS  
STAFF WRITER

Effective this fall, students will have two extra weeks to decide whether to drop a course.

The Faculty Council voted unanimously Friday to extend the deadline to drop a class from six weeks to eight weeks, allowing students to gather more information before lightening their loads.

"For the bulk of students' courses there is very little information available by the drop deadline," said Bobbi Owen, senior associate dean of undergraduate education.

The registrar's office reports that many students request to drop courses after they receive midterm grades, usually during the seventh or eighth week of classes.

The extension will make it easier to drop courses in which students are doing poorly. The withdrawal will not appear on transcripts.

The council also passed two other resolutions, effective fall 2007, that aim to boost the University's graduation and retention rates.

One resolution requires that all students maintain a 2.0 grade point average to remain eligible for enrollment, and the second creates an academic probation period for students who do not meet the standard.

"This is a well-considered set of recommendations, and I applaud the faculty for taking these steps," Chancellor James Moeser said to the council after the measure were passed.

He said UNC has an excellent graduation rate but lags behind its most distinguished peers.

"The main concern ... was really how to make the system work better so that students who are failing or in danger of failing can get help relatively quickly," said Clayton Koelb, a member of the educational policy committee, which introduced the changes.

The University requires that students attain progressively higher levels of performance — lighter GPA standards for first-year students that increase in difficulty by academic year.

Proponents of the measure said that the current system is complicated and that it allows

students to build a record that is not on track to meet the 2.0 GPA required for graduation.

Beginning in fall 2007, a student whose GPA falls below the required level will be placed on academic probation. Instead of receiving a written notice of academic warning, students will meet with an adviser and have one semester to bring up their grades, Owen said.

If a student's GPA remains below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters, that student will not be able to register for courses during the next term. Summer or online courses would be the only available options to boost grades.

Faculty Council members agreed that the measures will not serve as a deterrent to failing students but instead will improve performance.

"I'm convinced that we've increased the vigor of our classes," Moeser said. "We will see what is already a great graduation and retention rate increase."

Contact the News Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## Class sections subject to cuts

BY KATIE HOFFMANN  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

It's something every student at UNC is familiar with: waking up at 9:30 a.m. on a Saturday, opening five Web browser windows and preparing their fingers to relentlessly hit the "back" button.

It's just a part of students' efforts to nab a spot in one of those intriguing lectures they've been eyeing.

Many students are forced to rethink their class selections because low faculty resources and increased enrollment have reduced the frequency with which certain classes are offered.

And for the most part, administrators say, their hands are tied.

This weekend, thousands of rising seniors logged onto Student Central to register for fall classes, creating the typical bottleneck that occurs when students battle for the few spots in high-demand classes.

"It's kind of like when you call in to a radio station," said senior Vanessa Holder. "You call in, hang

### Classes not offered in the past four semesters

**ENGL 155 — Queer Latina/o Literature, Performance and Visual Art (WMST 152) (3)**  
Explores literature, performance art, film and photos by Latinas and Latinos whose works might be described as "queer."

**BIOL 183 — Organismal Structure and Diversity in the Southern Appalachian Mountains (4)**  
An examination of the field biology of local fungi, plants or animals of the Appalachian Mountains. The taxonomy, ecology, life history and behavior of the organisms will be explored in both the laboratory and the field.

**HIST 170 — Introduction to Oral History (FOLK 174) (3)**  
Introduces students to the uses of interviews in historical research. Questions of ethics, interpretation and the construction of memory will be explored, and interviewing skills will be developed through field work.

SOURCE: The Undergraduate Bulletin and the University registrar

SEE OFFERINGS, PAGE 6

## Students drop, others pay price

BY KATIE HOFFMANN  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Dropping a class is a necessary reality of college. But the ramifications are sometimes overlooked.

Students who sign up for more classes than they plan on taking often prevent students from being able to register in those courses — leaving empty seats and frustrated students.

Of the 15,992 undergraduate students last semester, 31.5 per-

cent dropped credit hours, with 3.5 percent dropping three or more hours.

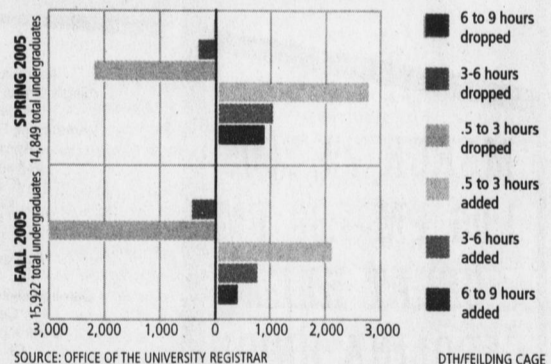
Many students said they purposely cushion class loads to evaluate which classes they like or dislike and then cut a course loose.

"I don't know how hard my classes are going to be this fall," said junior Megan Paul, who allowed herself some course flex-

SEE DROPS, PAGE 6

### Scheduling shuffle

With such large shifts in undergraduate course registration, students become frustrated by not being able to take a class that later opens up when others drop the course. In fall 2005, 2,797 students did not change their schedule and in spring 2005, about 3,310 students kept their original schedule.



# BOILING POINT

## Tar Heels avoid upset to advance to Elite 8

BY JACOB KARABELL  
SENIOR WRITER

CLEVELAND — Sylvia Hatchell almost fainted.

With North Carolina tied with Purdue with 21 seconds remaining in the Sweet 16 showdown, Hatchell diagrammed a play — Ivory Latta curling off a ball screen at the top of the key and cutting toward the basket.

But instead of the ball going to Latta as planned, Latta suddenly yelled "Camille!" to inbounder La'Tangela Atkinson. Atkinson quickly abandoned the

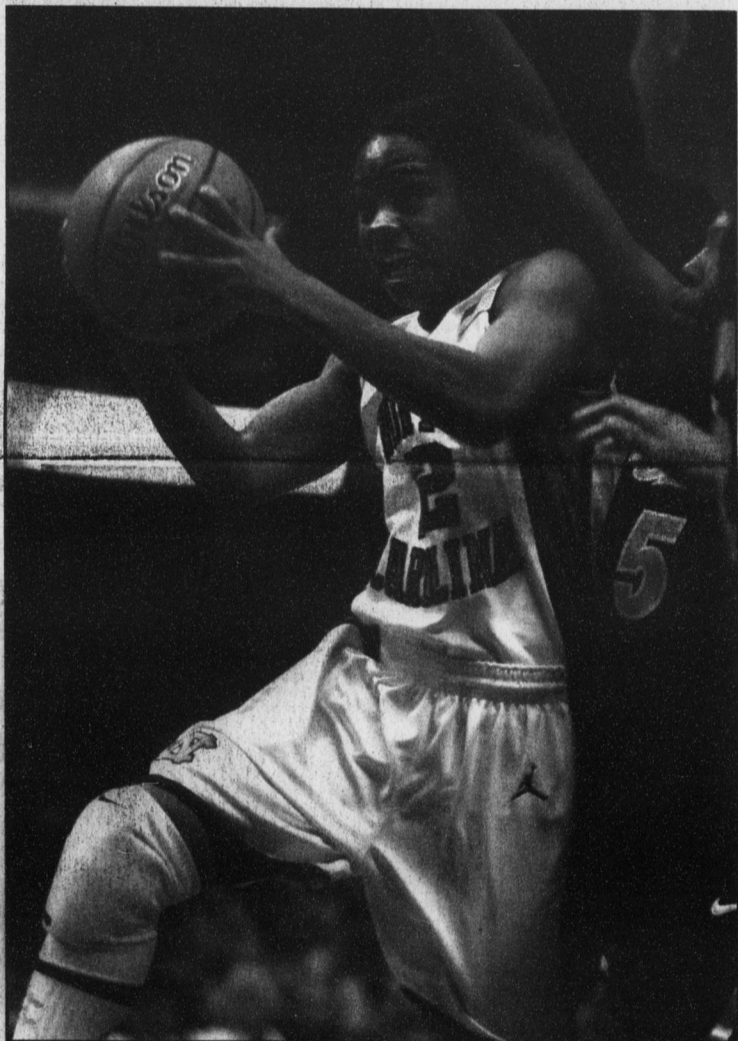
script and heaved a full-court pass to Camille Little, who had the ball knocked away by Boilermaker Sharika Webb.

Fortunately for Hatchell and her consciousness, the Tar Heels retained possession. And when they ran the coach's original play, Latta scored on a driving layup to lift UNC to a 70-68 win at Quicken Loans Arena on Sunday.

The Tar Heels (32-1) advance to battle second-seeded Tennessee in the Elite Eight on Tuesday night.

"I've got a pretty good baseball arm," Atkinson said. "I was just happy that I got the pass to Camille, and we had a chance to

SEE CLOSE CALL, PAGE 7



Point guard Ivory Latta (2) battles for two of her 19 points in Sunday's nail-biter win against Purdue. Latta sealed the game for the Tar Heels with a last-second layup to send UNC into the next round.

**ROUND FOUR:**  
**#1 UNC VS. #2 TENNESSEE**  
Time: Tuesday  
Location: Cleveland  
Watch: ESPN2  
Listen: News Talk 1360 WCHL

**MORE COVERAGE:**  
Page 14: Erlana Larkins dominates inside in Sunday's win.  
Online: Photos from the weekend.

## Festival likes its comedy Black

### 2nd annual event hailed a success

BY MARGARET HAIR  
SENIOR WRITER

In the opening moments of his act Saturday night, greeted by camera flashes and raucous applause, comedian Lewis Black expressed his fondness for Chapel Hill: "I have way too much fun here."

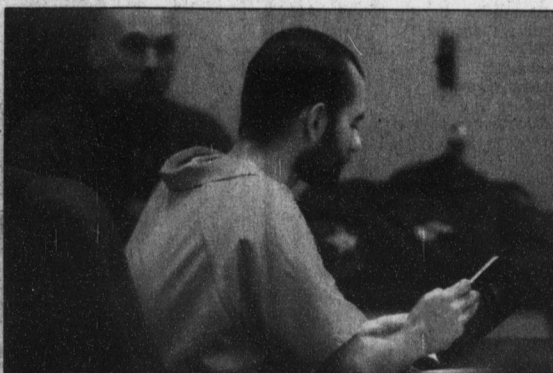
"Lewis Black & Friends," the marquee event of the second annual Carolina Comedy Festival, presented almost three hours of

comedy to a capacity crowd in Memorial Hall.

**INSIDE** Rory Albanese, senior producer for "The Daily Show," the show on which Black gained much of his fame, opened the evening

SEE LEWIS BLACK, PAGE 7

## Taheri-Azar letter, testimony aired in court



Taheri-Azar silently reads the Quran in court Friday during his probable cause hearing. Taheri-Azar jotted down notes in the text several times.

BY JESSICA SCHONBERG  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

New details about the March 3 incident in which UNC alumnus Mohammad Reza Taheri-Azar, 22, drove an SUV through the Pit were revealed at a hearing in District Court in Hillsborough on Friday.

Judge Joe Buckner found probable cause to pursue charges of nine counts of attempted first degree murder, five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury and four counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Taheri-Azar, the Tehran, Iran, native who has confessed to hitting nine people with a rented Jeep in the incident, silently read the Quran throughout the hearing.

He continues to be held in Central Prison in Raleigh with \$5.5 million bail. If convicted, he could face about 150 years in prison.

District Attorney Jim Woodall called six witnesses during the hearing — freshman Alex Slater, a student who was hit by the car; junior Bernard Holloway, sophomore Brian Seymour and freshman Jennifer Bellis, who witnessed the incident; Ross Barbee, the patrol officer who first responded to the scene; and Matthew Dodson, the investigating officer from the Department of Public Safety. Public Defender James Williams chose not to call any witnesses.

Woodall said the case now will SEE TAHERI-AZAR, PAGE 6

### CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, Friday's front page article "Top policy administrator to leave UNC" misstates when Jerry Lucido will assume a post at the University of Southern California. He will start the position Aug. 1. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

### online | [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com)

**PAGING THE DOCTOR** Report reveals a desperate need for psychiatrists in state  
**EDITOR'S BLOG** Results of the DTH's Opinion Page redesign lunch bunch  
**OPINION BLOG** Reaction to spam e-mail received from a University address

### city | page 2

**KITE RUNNERS**  
The annual Carrboro Kite Fly gets off the ground at Hank Anderson III Community Park on Sunday. Both young and old take to the skies.

### city | page 10

**THE BIGGEST LOSER**  
City schools teachers look to shed pounds as part of nutrition month efforts. Officials have made an effort at offering healthier foods.

### today in history

**MARCH 27, 1949 ...**  
More than 1,500 students and Chapel Hill residents come to UNC President Frank Porter Graham's home for his last Sunday open house.

### weather

Sunny  
H 63, L 39  
**index**  
police log ..... 2  
calendar ..... 2  
crossword ..... 9  
edit ..... 8  
sports ..... 14