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UNC honored for affordability

Kiplinger ranking contrasts with recent report

BY ROBIN BURK
STAFF WRITER

UNC-Chapel Hill ranked as the best value among public colleges and universities for the sixth consecutive time in Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

UNC-CH was among five N.C. schools that appeared Monday in the magazine's "50 Best Values in Public Colleges."

N.C. State University was next on the list, ranking 27th for out-of-state students.

Kimberly Lankford, a contributing editor at Kiplinger's, said the magazine considers both value and academic strength in rank-

ing colleges.

"UNC just does an amazing job of really just focusing on academics and also making it affordable for students to attend."

Kiplinger's ranking was released less than one month after the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gave North Carolina an "F" in affordability.

Since the release of the public policy report, N.C. higher education officials have discussed ways to improve access for lower-income students.

Shirley Ort, associate provost and director of scholarships and student aid at UNC-CH,

said the University makes significant efforts to provide financial aid.

Ort said the low affordability grade could be misleading.

"It boggles my mind," she said. "When you grade all 50 states, it's hard to achieve data comparability, and I think that one of the problems is that they're having to use data that is three or four years old, as well."

The UNC-system Board of Governors released a statement on Sept. 8 that refuted the center's grade for North Carolina.

"The Measuring Up 2006 report ... does not appear to provide an accurate picture of financial aid provided to needy students at public universities in North Carolina."

Although the state recently failed in

affordability, the Kiplinger's high ranking of the school came as no surprise to Jeff Davies, chief of staff for UNC-system President Erskine Bowles.

"The low tuition coupled with the high-quality education that Chapel Hill provides for students makes it a clear best value," he said.

He said the Carolina Covenant initiative is one example of the University's efforts to ensure affordability.

"It's the multi-pronged effort that insures that students can have access to the institution, and that once they do have access that they get a high-quality education," Davies said.

Along with UNC-CH's high caliber of

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The process of grading:

Kiplinger's Personal Finance: Scored academic quality including freshmen retention rates and the student-to-faculty ratio. Schools were then ranked on cost and financial aid, using academic-quality scores and average debt at graduation to break ties.

The National Report Card on Higher Education: Scored affordability based on the benchmark set by the noted performance of the top five affordable states in the 1990s.

SOURCES: www.kiplinger.com, measuringup.highereducation.org

Groups ready for holy days

Jews, Muslims aim for tolerance

BY ERIN FRANCE
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Today, for the first time in three decades, Rosh Hashana and Ramadan start on the same day.

It is a time for followers of Islam and Judaism to cleanse their bodies and minds, focus on family and celebrate life.

Campus groups are hosting their own celebrations. The Muslim Students Association is planning a Fast-a-Thon and a relief donation drive for Palestine and Lebanon. N.C. Hillel and Chabad both are set to hold services and meals.

In addition, the alignment of the holidays provides a chance for groups to come together. N.C. Hillel is planning an event for Muslims to break fast in a sukkah, an outdoor Jewish dwelling at which meals are eaten.

Relations between the MSA and N.C. Hillel are close, said Ariel Scheib, president of Sigma Rho Lambda, a Jewish sorority.

"We're really lucky on this campus to have such a close relationship between the MSA and Hillel," she said.

There are still tensions on campus between religious groups, she said, especially after Mohammad Taheri-Azar's attempt to kill students on campus to avenge the deaths of Muslims across the world.

Scheid added that international relations between the Muslim state of Iran and Jewish state of Israel have strained ties between the groups internationally.

"It's hard to comprehend how there's so much hatred," she said.

What are we celebrating?

Rosh Hashana A two-day family-oriented holiday, celebrating the new year. The occasion celebrates life and is an opportunity to repent for actions during the year. Traditional foods eaten include raisins, apples with honey and challah, a round-shaped white bread made with eggs.

Ramadan A monthlong holiday in which participants fast during the day to concentrate on cleansing the body and mind. The occasion includes prayer and reading the Koran. Traditional foods eaten include a breakfast of meat, rice and hoshaf, a cold dish made with raisins and/or apricots.

"It's difficult for me because I'm very pro-Israel, but I'm very pro-Muslim too."

Stephen Gent, a professor of political science at UNC, said tensions are high between Muslims and Jews in the Middle East, especially since the Iranian president called the Holocaust a myth.

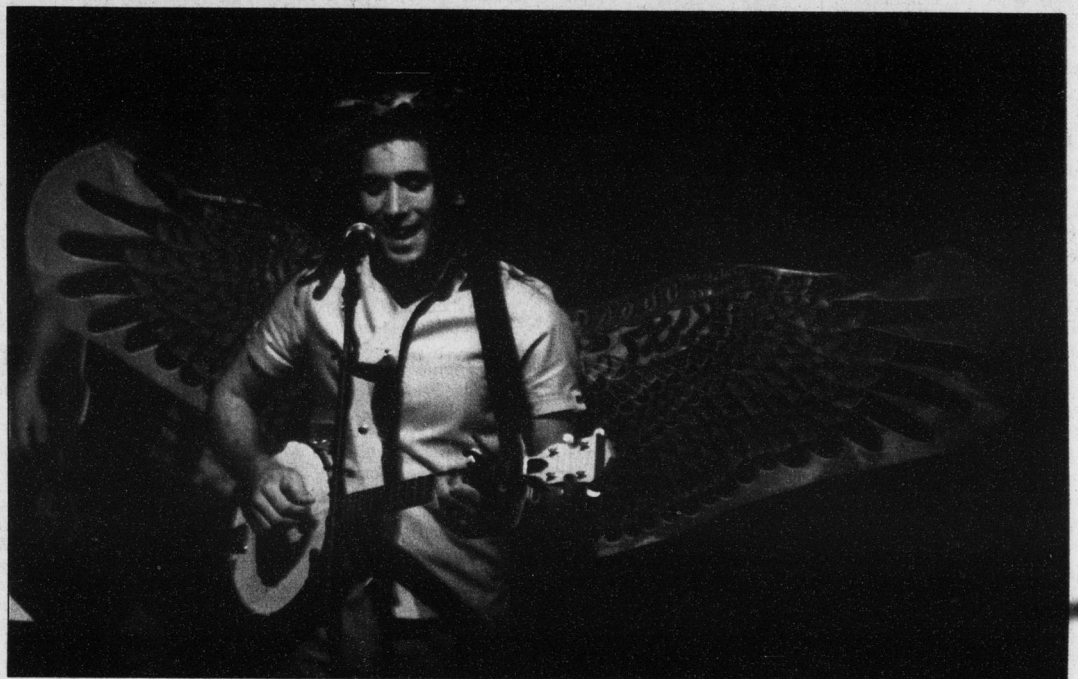
"It's obviously a signal that there's still issues that are unresolved between those communities."

Gent said relations between the countries could improve, but it would take time. "There's obviously no formal relations between Israel and Iran," he said.

Although actions in the Middle East might not directly affect many Americans, he said, perceptions of practitioners are affected.

"It affects the communities in the United States inasmuch as they

SEE HOLIDAYS, PAGE 5



DTH/ALICIA TOWLER

Sufjan Stevens, a critically acclaimed folk-pop troubadour, performs in a full Memorial Hall on Thursday night. Tickets for the concert were sold out the day they went on sale, leaving the 1,000-plus audience members anticipating the show for almost one month.

CAMPUS FEELS THE NOISE

BY MARGARET HAIR
SENIOR WRITER

Sufjan Stevens, self-described majestic songbird, played to a capacity Memorial Hall crowd Thursday night.

Known for his highly orchestrated brand of folk-pop and entire albums dedicated to Midwestern states, Stevens took the stage with 14 bandmates — all colorfully costumed as butterflies.

"I'm the majestic songbird, and this is my magical Chinese butterfly brigade family," he said, rocking to flap the wings attached to his back.

The concert, a collaboration between the Carolina Union Activities Board and Cat's Cradle, marked the second time in a year the

duo has brought a big-name rock act to the venue. Alt-country staple Wilco played two consecutive shows in March.

Stevens' Asthmatic Kitty labelmate My Brightest Diamond opened the show, with a set of haunting, string-supported numbers from her album *Bring Me the Workhorse*.

Student tickets for the concert went on sale Aug. 24, and were gone by 6 p.m. that day. Presale seats set aside for a Stevens fan club also sold quickly.

The last time Stevens came to Chapel Hill, he played to more than 600 people at a sold-out show at Cat's Cradle.

"We're still kind of amazed about how quickly it sold out," said Robert Gurdian, CUAB music chairman.

Alex Taylor, a sophomore communication studies major, said she got her ticket through the fan site. Taylor expressed varying reasons for her anticipation of Stevens' performance.

"I listen to his music," she said. "The only complaint that I have about him is that he's a little too attractive — it's intimidating."

About 40 reserve tickets for the show were advertised at Tuesday night's Nickel Creek concert, Gurdian said. Those sold within two hours of becoming available, filling the 1,434-seat hall.

Cat's Cradle owner Frank Heath, who attended the concert, said he was pleased

SEE STEVENS, PAGE 5

Carrboro festival offers music for the masses

BY KATHERINE LATSHAW
STAFF WRITER

What first began as an ambitious effort between a few individuals to share their love for music has grown into the Carrboro Music Festival.

The festival, which runs from 1 p.m. until midnight Sunday, will be held at various sites along Main, Weaver and Greensboro streets.

Gerry Williams, event coordinator for the festival, estimates that 10,000 people will attend this year's free, all-day festival.

Due to the interest generated by the past eight festivals, an increasingly large amount of art-

ists, ranging from hip-hop and punk to jazz and country, applied this year.

"I usually get 200 to 230 artist applications," Williams said. "This year, we have 21 venues and 157 different performing groups."

There also will be a train ride, arts and crafts and inflatable games for younger audiences.

But the festival was not always of such magnitude and scope.

It originally started in 1998 as the Fête de la Musique, a French music festival celebrating the summer solstice.

It was one of the few American festivals to be officially recognized by the Ministry of France, along with larger cities such as San Francisco and New York.

In the fifth year of its inception, organizers moved the event to a

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 5

Students protest military's gay ban

Greensboro police cite demonstrators

BY SARAH WHITWORTH
STAFF WRITER

Four openly gay college students wouldn't take no for an answer Thursday morning when they were refused enlistment into the Army.

The students conducted a sit-in at the Greensboro Army Recruitment Center.

Three of the four, Matthew Comer, Jessica Arvidson and Alexandria Nini, were arrested and charged with second-degree trespassing.

The fourth demonstrator, Stacey Booe, left when the police threatened arrest.

"We cannot push anyone into doing something that they are not comfortable with," said Comer, Greensboro's Soulforce organizer.

Soulforce is a national organization advocating the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people through nonviolent resistance.

UNC-Greensboro students Leslie Hughes, Jacquelyn Hernandez, Alexander Barbato, Danielle Hoffman and Caitlin Stroud, as well as 62-year-old Cristy Elkins, also were arrested and charged with second-degree trespassing.

"They came in support of the enlistees' rights to serve openly and honestly," Comer said.

Those arrested were taken to a Guilford County Magistrate, where they were granted release on a written promise to appear in court on Oct. 23, Comer said.

Lieutenant Jane Allen of the Greensboro Police Department said Soulforce stood by its commitment to nonviolence.

"The whole demonstration was passive. There were no incidents of violence whatsoever."

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GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD/LYNN HEY

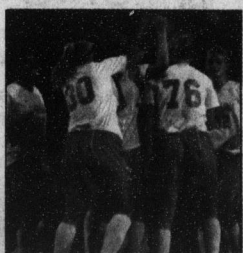
Matt Hill Comer, a UNC-G student and organizer for the Right to Serve campaign, is arrested Thursday morning after trying to enlist in the Army.

online | dailytarheel.com

DANCING DO-GOODERS Group hosts a benefit dance at Tallulas

ONE PEACE AT A TIME Event to search for ways to spread peace

RAPID ACTION PlaySlam! invites playwrights to present short plays



sports | page 7

LAST-MINUTE VICTORY

Heather O'Reilly scores a late goal, her second of the game, to defeat the No. 1 Florida State Seminoles 2-1 Thursday at Fetzer Field.

campus | page 9

NOT PRINTER-FRIENDLY

Teaching assistants say they were unaware that they could use department printing, and many wasted their allotted 500 pages on their classes.

this day in history

SEPT 22, 1966 ...

A South Carolina research firm is hired to study the University's parking situation and suggest ways to alleviate growing congestion.

weather

Partly cloudy
H 77, L 62

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