

The Daily Tar Heel

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N.C. State Fair to open gates today

BY LINDSEY NAYLOR
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The N.C. State Fairgrounds will open this morning to the public, kicking off the state's 10-day celebration of agricultural heritage and deep-fried food.

North Carolinians are expected to arrive in droves for the opening weekend to enjoy fair weather and family fun.

By the time the fair closes its doors Oct. 22, organizers hope to have welcomed about 800,000 visitors.

Fair spokesman Brian Long said workers were scrambling to get rides and exhibits up and running for opening day, and the effort seems to have paid off.

"When you're dealing with the state fair, you go, go, go, go," he

said Thursday afternoon.

"Come Friday at 8 o'clock when the gates open, we'll be ready."

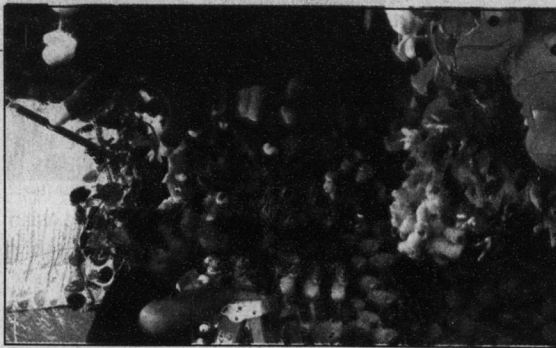
This year's attractions include everything from tractor pulls and demolition derbies to pickle-eating contests and a "karaoke bobble-head" game called Dancing Heads.

Steve Troxler, commissioner of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, said some perennial favorites are the old-timey Heritage Circle, Paul Bunyan Lumberjacks Show and the nightly concerts offered at Dorton Arena.

"That's great entertainment," he said.

"Where can you go for a budget of \$6 and have this in front of you?"

Last year the fair grossed \$9.8 million in revenue from all sources, including games and ticket sales.



DTH/LARRY BAUM

Steven Ristick arranges stuffed animal prizes at his game booth at the fair grounds Thursday. Workers are eager to greet the public.

Weather permitting, 2006 should be another high-revenue year, Long said.

Darin Figsrsky, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Raleigh, said temperature highs are expected to be five to 10 degrees

lower than average.

He added that by midmorning the sun should help to warm daytime fair-goers.

"I think the biggest issue will be

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Event an annual rite of passage

Still holds true to farming roots

BY LAURA OLENIACZ
SENIOR WRITER

Step off the platform at Raleigh Union Station into 1853.

After a year on the farm with only your family, the Carolina-blue sky and your crop, you're ready to enter the busy crowd of 4,000 people.

Now you're at the N.C. State Fair. You'll sleep under a wagon. See a vaudeville show. Enter a livestock competition. Play a game of

chance or sleight of hand.

One hundred and fifty-three years old, the fair — which kicks off at 8 a.m. today — was the year's most exciting social event in its time.

"Life on the farm was drab," said Paul Blankinship, state fair historian. Crowds flocked to the event just for its social aspect.

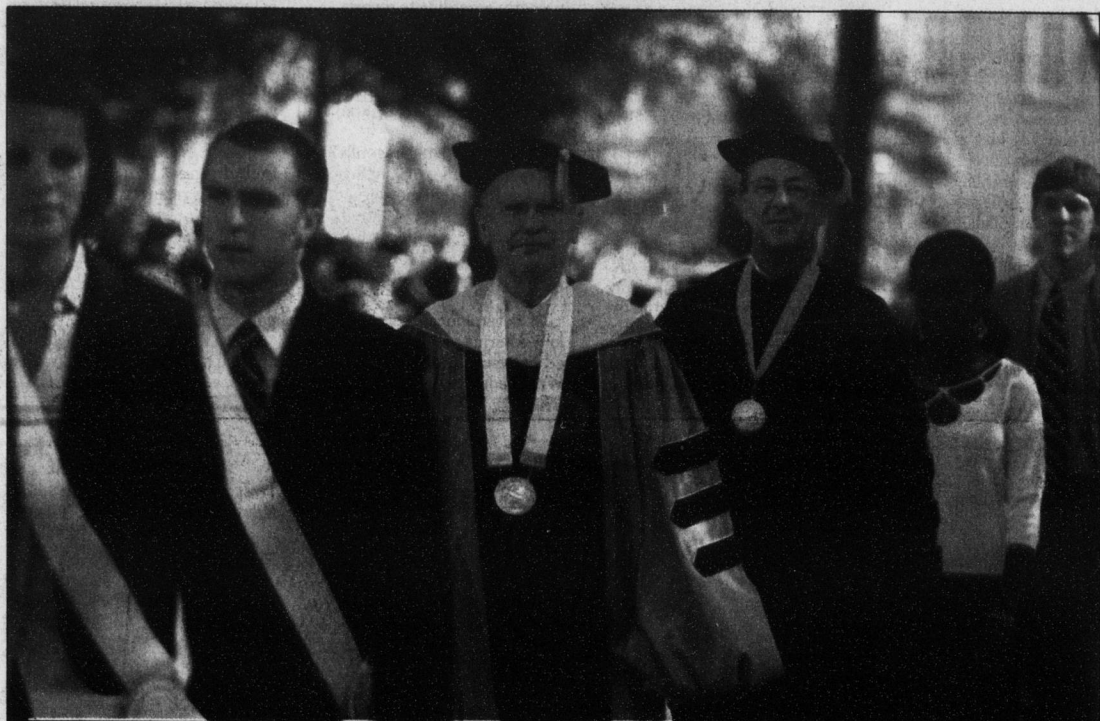
But it wasn't always just fun and games.

"It started out as a way to share information and techniques and tips with the farming community," said Brian Long, director of the

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UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 213 YEARS



DTH PHOTOS/LOGAN PRICE

Senior Class President Meg Petersen (from left) and Vice President Eric Schmidt, Chancellor James Moeser, UNC-system President Erskine Bowles, GPSF President Lauren Anderson and Student Body President James Allred proceed to Memorial Hall for University Day ceremonies Thursday.

CAMPUS HONORS TAR HEEL SPIRIT

BY WHITNEY KISLING
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Generations of UNC students have walked by the Old Well and drank its water. Thursday the historic landmark saw some returning faces.

Alumni and faculty gathered around the well to begin the procession to Memorial Hall for the start of University Day — a celebration of UNC's 213th birthday.

The juxtaposition of senior marshals adorned with Carolina-blue sashes and UNC leaders dressed in their academic regalia helped demonstrate the day's message — remembering the past and looking to the future.

"I love what this University stands for," said keynote speaker Erskine Bowles, president of the UNC system. "It is proudly a public university."

"This campus is a university of the people."

More than 500 people filled the hall — including familiar faces such as former UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin and former UNC-system Presidents Molly Broad and Bill Friday.

The audience heard from Chancellor James Moeser, who emphasized the University's new virtual museum Web site during his speech. The site details



UNC-system President Erskine Bowles delivers the keynote speech to honor the University's 213th birthday in Memorial Hall on Thursday.

all aspects of the oldest public university in the nation.

"This virtual museum tells our entire history, with the blunt, historical truth of slavery," he said.

"This is this University at its very best — being truthful, honest about our past."

The site, which can be accessed at

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Friday the 13th

BY CLINT JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Junior Megan Turek said she doesn't suffer from paraskevidekatriaphobia.

"Friday the 13th is certainly not cursed — it was the day I was brought into the world, and I would like to think that was a blessed day," said Turek, who was born June 13, 1986.

"Maybe my younger sisters would argue otherwise."

Friday, Oct. 13 has arrived, but instead of misfortune, most students said they only imagine horror movies bound by a silly myth.

On campus, paraskevidekatriaphobia — an irrational fear of Friday the

SEE 13TH, PAGE 5

Players eager for season's first big dance

BY SERGIO TOVAR
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore forward Tyler Hansbrough claims that he is by far the best dancer on the UNC men's basketball team.

"My dancing skills are unbelievable," said Hansbrough, last year's ACC freshman of the year.

"They will be the best since the Michael Jackson era."

Those dance moves, along with the skills of both the men's and women's basketball teams, will be on display during tonight's Late Night with Roy, starting at 7 p.m. in the Smith Center.

Senior guard Dewey Burke said fans will not be disappointed.

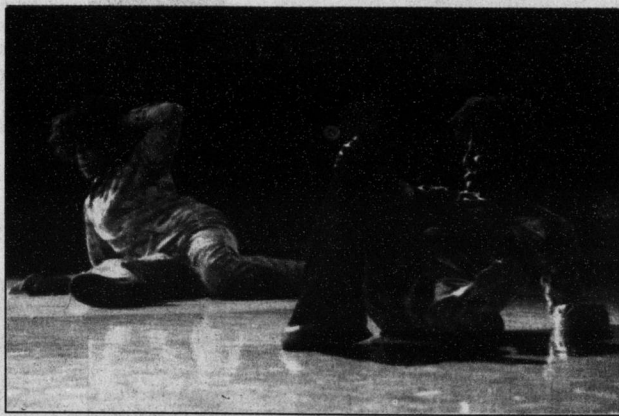
"We're bringing sexy back," he said.

Late Night with Roy marks the official start of basketball season — the first time teams nationwide can practice. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The event will start hours earlier than in years past because of a change in NCAA rules.

"By allowing it to be early, it makes it more family-oriented," said Rick Steinbacher, associate athletics director of marketing and promotions for the Department of Athletics.

The event will include dances and skits, as well as scrimmages by both the



DTH FILE/RICKY LEUNG

Sophomores Danny Green (left) and Mike Copeland get down to the floor during last year's Late Night with Roy. Players promise a similar showing tonight.

men's and women's basketball teams. "Every coach really loves this time period ... I want fans to laugh and be excited about basketball," said Roy Williams, head coach of the men's team.

Williams said he does not like to know what his players are doing beforehand so he cannot be blamed for anything they do.

"I'm excited ... we'll get to show our dancing and acting skills," said sophomore Bobby Frasier.

One of the best things about Late Night is the element of surprise, Steinbacher said, adding that tonight's lineup of events is under wraps.

"People have no idea about what

SEE LATE NIGHT, PAGE 5

Late Night with Roy

What: Dances, skits, scrimmage from men's and women's basketball teams

When: 7 p.m.

Admissions: Free

Arena capacity: 21,750

Other schools' versions:

► University of Kansas' Late Night in the Phog

What: Skits, scrimmage from men's and women's basketball teams, informal dunk contest

When: 6:45 p.m.

Admissions: Free, attendees asked to bring canned food

Arena Capacity: 16,300

► University of Florida's Madness 2006

What: Volleyball game, women's team 3-point contest, men's team scrimmage, dunk contest

When: 7 p.m.

Admissions: Free

Arena Capacity: 12,000

online | dailytarheel.com

AN EVENT-CAPPER Masala Week to end with a carnival in the Pit

CULTURE OF FOOD A forum addresses the N.C. restaurant industry

COMING HOME Board of Visitors to hold meetings on campus today

Day Left to Register to Vote
go to www.co.orange.nc.us/elect/



city | page 7

COOKING UP SAFETY
Fire department officials use Fire Prevention Week to raise awareness about the most common source of home fires — the kitchen.

this day in history

OCT. 13, 1944 ...
The University's Civil Air Patrol Squadron is inaugurated when 300 students from UNC and Chapel Hill High School turn out for enrollment.

weather

Partly cloudy
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