

CLARIFICATION

A Wednesday online version of the story, "Congress backs off on ticket reform," incorrectly implies that Dustin Ingalls, speaker pro tem of Student Congress, did not agree with John Curtis, faculty adviser to Congress, that the ticket-distribution-policy bill would be discriminatory. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Year's first transportation meeting addresses parking

Representatives from the Triangle Transit Authority, UNC Hospitals and student government met Wednesday for the advisory committee on transportation's first meeting of the academic year.

"I wouldn't say that this is the most challenging year," University police chief Derek Poarch said. "But I wouldn't say it's the most boring year either — primarily due to the construction on Manning Drive."

The meeting focused on the state of parking on campus.

More parking spaces will be lost because of the large amounts of construction on campus, including spaces in the Bell Tower lot and Art Commons lot where a new music building is to be built.

Child-development institute receives \$15 million grant

The Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute was awarded a \$15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education Oct. 1 to be distributed over the next five years.

The grant enables the center's technical assistance to states dealing with special-needs children to continue.

The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center is a project within the institute that focuses on the needs of disabled children.

"We provide technical assistance training and consultation to states and state agencies that provide policies and services throughout local communities to serve almost one million children in this nation," said Pascal Trohanis, director of NECTAC.

This is the second grant for NECTAC since its start-up grant in 2001.

Apply for graduate student research award by Friday

Applications for the 2007 graduate student Impact Awards are due Friday.

Sponsored by the Graduate Education Advancement Board, Impact Awards recognize graduate students who have conducted research that specifically helps North Carolina.

Award recipients receive a \$1,000 cash prize, and they are recognized at the graduate school's annual recognition event.

They also serve as graduate student ambassadors.

The award has seen research on such topics as the link between drinking and depression, snowfall in the Appalachian Mountains and prison construction as an economic development option.

Visit www.dailytarheel.com for the full story.

CITY BRIEFS

Students arrested on drug charges after home search

Three UNC students were arrested on a slew of drug charges Monday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Reports state Scott Kevin Russell, 19, Paul Benjamin Peters, 19, and David Ross Algood, 21, all of 408 Cotton St., were arrested just before midnight at their home.

Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said officers received some information in the last two weeks about possible drug activity and conducted undercover buys before obtaining and serving a search warrant.

Cousins said officers found 3.8 grams of cocaine, 65 grams of marijuana, 11 adderall pills, seven depressant pills, drug paraphernalia and \$21,005 cash during the search Monday.

Officers arrested Russell and Peters on felony charges of possession with intent to sell or distribute marijuana, possession of cocaine, possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, according to reports.

Reports state Algood was charged with felony possession of cocaine and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Both Algood and Russell also were charged with maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of selling drugs.

All three men were transported to Orange County Jail in lieu of \$2,500 bail, reports state.

They were scheduled to appear in court Tuesday.

— From staff and wire reports

UNC reviews vendor options

3 vying to replace computer system

BY ELISABETH GILBERT
STAFF WRITER

The University is one step closer to selecting a new computer system vendor.

UNC's evaluation teams met Wednesday to assess which of three competing vendors can fulfill UNC's system requirements most effectively.

The system that University officials are looking to replace includes student services, human resources and financing.

Last May, Information Technology Services developed a

list of more than 2,600 functional requirements for the new computer system, called Enterprise Resource Planning.

The requirements include everything from recognizing invalid Social Security numbers on admission applications to adding a new department or campus to the system.

The new system must also be able to convert data, including full academic records from as far back as 1968, said Stephanie Szakal, assistant vice chancellor for enterprise applications.

Three vendors — Oracle/PeopleSoft, SunGard/Banner, and SAP — responded with reports on how they intend to meet those needs.

The reports detail which needs vendors could meet immediately and which would require more time, the ways in which the requirements would be met and the approximate cost of meeting them.

Beginning Nov. 7 representatives from each of the vendors will come to campus to demonstrate their software and its ability to meet specific system requirements.

"We know they can all do it,"

Szakal said. "It's whether they can do it the way we want."

The decision also will be based on recommendations from other schools that use software from those vendors, as well as site visits.

Among the schools UNC solicited recommendations from are East Carolina, North Carolina Central and Duke universities. All three schools use one or more of the University's prospective providers.

Evaluation teams must submit their final decisions by Dec. 8, one week after the end of the dem-

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Foreign drama to take stage

Studies struggles in India province

BY MORGAN ELLIS
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

With every chaotic act that occurs, there always seems to be an artistic voice to make light of those events.

Ratan Thiyam's Chorus Repertory Theatre will present "Nine Hills One Valley" as a part of the Carolina Performing Arts Series at 7:30 p.m. today and 8 p.m. Friday at Memorial Hall to shed light on the struggle in Thiyam's homeland and the rest of the world.

"I think the kind of work that I've been doing is known to every human being on this planet because we are suffering from many things," said Thiyam, the production's writer and director, who hails from the easternmost province of India, Manipur.

Thiyam spoke to various classes throughout the week at UNC, including courses that focus on law and drama. He most recently spoke to students in a first-year seminar taught by the series' executive director for the arts, Emil Kang.

His 26-member Chorus Repertory Theatre, from the same locale, will portray the strife and violence associated with the politics, economics and traditional values of their home.

Kang described Manipur as one of the most remote locations he's ever been to, and he noted the military presence in the area.

But the violence isn't just specific to Manipur.

"The morning cup of coffee or tea becomes bitter," Thiyam said. "When reading the newspaper headlines, there's no difference between a small place or a bigger place."

Kang said the production references events in our past such as the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But Kang said it also refers to ancient times.

Thiyam said that Manipur is rooted in art and culture and that he tried to tie together the different times in "Nine Hills One Valley," specifically in terms of what he calls the modern man.

"After all, what is a modern man?" he asked.

"A mix of past and present."

All of these themes come together in what The Washington Post called a "visually arresting" presentation.

Kang said that the set is literally dark, and that the visuals are accompanied by live music.

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ATTEND THE PLAY

Time: 7:30 p.m. today; 8 p.m. Friday
Location: Memorial Hall
Info: www.carolinaperformingarts.org



Former UNC men's basketball coach Dean Smith receives a flu shot from nurse Pam McCall of the Orange County Health Department on Wednesday. Smith spoke to residents of the Chapel Hill Senior Center about the importance of getting influenza vaccinations.

COACHING FLU PREVENTION

Dean Smith speaks at Chapel Hill Senior Center

BY DAVE PEARSON
STAFF WRITER

Dean Smith is not a doctor. But the lack of a medical degree did not stop him from speaking about the importance of influenza vaccinations at the Chapel Hill Senior Center on Wednesday.

Smith, who has spoken at flu prevention events for the past six years, spoke about the late Dr. W. Paul Biggers giving him his flu shot during basketball practices.

"It's the best shot you'll ever take," Smith said to about 30 people.

State Health Director Dr. Leah Devlin said thousands of people, most of whom are above the age of 65, die from influenza each year.

Despite a shortage of flu vaccinations last year, Devlin said she anticipates having enough to go around this season and urges

people of all ages to get vaccinated.

"It's not too late to get it in December and into January," Devlin said, saying that's when North Carolina's peak flu season occurs.

Smith, who celebrated his 75th birthday in February, smiled when saying that no, he had never had the flu.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that about 36,000 people will die from the influenza virus this year. Those most in need of vaccinations are infants, people more than 50 years old, pregnant women and health care workers.

Andrea Held, a public health educator for the immunization branch of the N.C. Division of Public Health, said washing your hands with warm soapy water and staying home if you are sick are common sense ways of not spreading the virus.

Held also allayed fears of a pandemic.

She said each year there are different strains of influenza, such as last year's H5N1 avian flu, that are candidates for a pandemic. Public health groups are ready, she said, even though the chances of a serious outbreak are low.

For those afraid of needles, Held described the flu shot as "minimally painful" and said a mild soreness in the arm is usually the only negative side effect of immunization.

Event organizer Myra Austin, the wellness coordinator for the Orange County Department on Aging, opened the event by reminding those in attendance that flu season runs from October until April.

Anne Butzen, senior associate of the outpatient team at the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, was there with the Flu Clinic Finder, an online resource at www.thecarolinascenior.org that enables people to find flu shots by zip code in either of the

SEE FLU PREVENTION, PAGE 4

Officials approve Festival of Lights

BY EMILY GALLIMORE
STAFF WRITER

Franklin Street is set to shine this holiday season.

Members of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership approved a proposal for the Franklin Street Festival of Lights at a meeting Wednesday.

The festival will kick off with a holiday open house Dec. 3 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will continue through Jan. 6.

The 35-day celebration, which will cost an estimated \$16,000, will focus on illuminating Franklin Street, as the road is named for Benjamin Franklin, the father of electricity.

During the open house, Franklin Street stores will be urged to offer holiday specials and refreshments.

"We'd run pedicab rides in the street," partnership executive director Liz Parham said. "We could use the bus stop areas as pedicab and carriage stops."

The finale of the open house will feature the lighting of a community Christmas tree.

Partnership members are working toward confirming a site in the memorial garden of University Baptist Church on the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets.

Members approved the purchase

of a 22-foot commercial grade tree unless the church agrees to plant a live tree.

The two-story artificial tree would be an annual Franklin Street fixture and would be stored by the town after each holiday season. It would come from Raleigh in four pieces, already covered in lights, and would be anchored to the ground with airplane cables.

To add to the effect, businesses, fraternities and sororities will be encouraged to light up their Franklin Street locations for the festival.

The corner space at 100 E. Franklin St. will host Santa Claus and other costumed characters every weekend of the festival.

The group is conducting a search for carolers and people to dress in costume and carry lights.

The partnership and Friends of Downtown are planning a window display contest, which will judge the windows on use of light. WCHL 1360-AM has agreed to provide free advertising for businesses with the best fronts.

"We hope to really grow and expand on and incorporate all the holidays through the winter season that center around lights," Parham

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 4

Groups praise Allred's involvement

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

When he ran for student body president in February, James Allred touted a platform that emphasized accountability to student groups.

Halfway through Allred's term, many student leaders said they're impressed with his efforts to deliver on this promise, but both Allred and leaders outside his administration said more can be done.

"I think what he's doing is a great start," said

Renae McPherson, president of the Black Student Movement, noting that unlike his predecessors, Allred attends some BSM meetings.

Allred also is involved with the senior class and is working with officers to plan the senior class address.

"I can pretty much guarantee he'll be at senior class events," said Senior Class President Meg Petersen.

But Allred's involvement often goes beyond attending meetings.

Julian Wooten, co-chairman of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender-Straight Alliance, said Allred has aided in efforts to secure benefits for same-sex partners at the University.

"Helping with that definitely sent the message that he is fighting for us," he said.

But Wooten, who serves as

"If you encompass the ... people working for the executive branch, we've tried to draw from all facets of campus life."

JAMES ALLRED, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

chairman of student government's minority affairs committee, said he is one of the only GLBTSA members in the administration.

McPherson also expressed concerns about the diversity of student government.

"There isn't as much diversity as some would like to see," she said. "More has been done than before, but that doesn't mean more can't be done."

But Allred said his administration includes members of BSM, Chispa, Sangam, Young Democrats and College Republicans.

"If you encompass the totality of people working for the executive branch, we've tried to draw from all facets of campus life," he said.

Allred's administration reaches out to student groups in several ways. Through the student life committee, for example, the work of student groups is facilitated.

Senior Adviser Doug Weiss is charged with working directly with student groups. Weiss has been working with environmental groups to put paper recycling bins in Davis Library.

"One thing we would like to increase is going out to student groups," said Christie Cunningham, Allred's chief of staff.

Allred said he is working to restart the Student Organization Council, a group created to bring together a variety of groups on campus.

"Until we get that council back up and running, we're hindered in our ability (to work with groups)," Allred said.

He said student government should not take up the initiatives of students groups but should aid them in other ways.

"One of the biggest things we can do is improve the room reservation process," Allred said.

Allred and his cabinet also are working on plans to take out the bowling alley in the basement of the Student Union and find other uses for the space.

Cunningham said the replacement — which is yet to be determined — should address the needs of student groups.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.