

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 114, ISSUE 121

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2006

www.dailytarheel.com

Dental technicians' layoffs delayed

Employees wish for earlier notice

BY WHITNEY KISLING
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The dental technicians who were set to lose their jobs Nov. 27 received an extension on their final day — something many said they aren't thrilled about.

John Williams, dean of the School of Dentistry, said he wants to give the 15 technicians until Jan. 5, 2007, to ease their transition and give them

more time to secure other jobs. "We have certainly valued the contribution of these individuals in our program," he said. "We want to extend every benefit to these individuals that we possibly can."

The jobs will be outsourced to commercial laboratories to save the school money.

But because Williams told the technicians on their scheduled last day that it was going to be moved, several were upset.

At the urging of the administration, technician Steve DeBlanc finished his vacation days this month.

He said he would have played his cards differently had he known about the extension earlier.

"I'm very upset about the fact that they told us to take a vacation," he said. "I don't take off in November."

And for some of the technicians, the time off wasn't exactly time off.

Technician John Jordan said he spent most of his vacation at UNC, attending meetings with administrators or protesting in rallies.

"Just about every day, I ended up having to leave home and come back over here," said Jordan, who will be 26 days from his 30-year mark on

his last day of work.

Technicians can appeal the decision under the University's dispute resolution and staff grievance policy. But many already had appealed, and the mediations with administrators weren't helpful, they said.

"Appealing is ridiculous," DeBlanc said. "We're not going anywhere."

Some technicians said they think the layoffs fit into a larger goal of the University — part of the UNC-system President's Advisory Committee on Efficiency and Effectiveness,

SEE EXTENSION, PAGE 6

Previously on ... the dental technician layoffs

Spring 2006: An ad hoc committee — assembled in late 2005 to evaluate the School of Dentistry's efficiency — submits to Dean John Williams its formal recommendations to outsource 15 dental technician positions.

Oct. 4: At the monthly Employee Forum meeting, the technicians are notified that their jobs will be outsourced and that their last day is Nov. 27.

October and early November: Protesters voice opposition to the decision through a protest, rally, petition, march and a letter to Chancellor James Moeser, which asked for a 12-month moratorium. University administration stands by its Nov. 27 layoff date.

Nov. 27: The technicians are notified that their last day has been moved to Jan. 5.

Day aims for AIDS insight

Prevention focus of world efforts

BY LINDSEY NAYLOR
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Since Dec. 1, 1988, World AIDS Day has served as a catalyst for international awareness.

For the estimated 793 N.C. residents who have tested positive, and for the local clinics throughout the state that fight the disease and its spread, the day also is a reminder that AIDS still is a terrible and preventable reality.

Throughout the rural South, blacks face the greatest risk for contracting the disease, and it's becoming an increasingly socioeconomic issue.

Testing and treatment procedures can help at-risk and infected N.C. residents regardless of their financial status, said John Peebles, deputy branch head for the HIV/STD prevention and care branch of the state Division of Public Health.

But he said the type of awareness raised by World AIDS Day is the most important tool in halting the spread of the disease.

"Any person can go to their county health department and get a free, confidential AIDS test. The availability of testing is not a problem," Peebles said. "It's more an educational challenge."

The HIV/AIDS care and pre-

FREE HIV TESTING
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today
Location: Student Union

vention branch provides state and federal funds to community-based organizations aimed at providing free testing and at establishing educational programs to inform residents of the AIDS risk.

Historically black colleges and universities are also recipients of funding through the N.C. Project Commit to Prevent grant initiative.

Historically black N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University uses the money to fund Aggies Against AIDS Association, which provides educational programs.

"It's HIV/AIDS 101, the basics about infection," said Janet Lattimore, university health educator at N.C. A&T's health center.

Programs are offered through residence halls and to other campus organizations, such as fraternities and sororities, upon request.

Students at N.C. A&T planned a World AIDS Day Walk to promote awareness, and last year's walk drew more than 200 participants.

The N.C. A&T health center, like UNC's Campus Health Services, provides free HIV testing to students. Lattimore said anywhere between 25 and 99 people take advantage of the service when it is offered.

SEE AIDS, PAGE 6

UNC back in the Cup, ready for the Bruins

BY NICKI JHABVALA
STAFF WRITER

It's been two years. For most teams, returning to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament after a short hiatus would be a major achievement. But for the North Carolina women's soccer program, the hiatus is an anomaly.

In its 28-year history, the program has recorded an astounding 18 national championships and had placed no lower than third prior to 2004.

And as much as the Tar Heels despise overtimes, their last two seasons have ended in extra-time decisions.

In 2004, North Carolina lost to Santa Clara 1-0 in the third round of the Tournament when the Broncos scored about 30 seconds into the overtime period.

In 2005, UNC tied Florida State in regulation play of the quarterfinal match, but the Tar Heels fell short of making it to the Women's

ATTEND THE GAME
Time: 3:30 p.m. today
Location: SAS Soccer Park, Cary
Info: www.ncaasports.org

College Cup by one penalty kick in overtime.

Now they face UCLA for a shot to take on Notre Dame or Florida State in Sunday's championship game in Cary at SAS Soccer Park.

Coach Anson Dorrance previewed this season by saying it was expected to be a "rebuilding year" as 10 players were lost to graduation and nine new faces were added to the roster.

"I think by mid-October, November, we're going to be a formidable team and we'll give anybody a run," he said before the team's opener.

Dorrance also said that a rebuilding year was not a luxury the program could afford, given its reputation as one of the top in the sport.

And after losing their first game to Texas A&M, the young Tar Heels seemed to realize that the luxury of rebuilding was not

SEE FINAL FOUR, PAGE 6

A TIME FOR SERVICE



DTH/LOGAN PRICE

Juniors Ebony Brooks (right), co-chairwoman of The Carolina Wishing Tree, and Jennifer Everett, co-chairwoman of the fundraising committee of the UNC Chapter of the NAACP, take down the tree Thursday in the Pit. The two are among many who do service during the holiday season.

Holiday season brings greater volunteerism

BY AMANDA YOUNGER
STAFF WRITER

The holidays mark more than just the start of basketball season and the bliss of a month-long break from the rigors of class and studying.

For many UNC students, it signals a time when volunteering is at its peak.

"I think almost any organization that you see on campus does some type of holiday effort," said Nicole Nelson, training officer for UNC's Navy ROTC program, which is participating in a Toys for Tots drive.

Jon Curtis, assistant director for student activities and organizations, said there are 43 on-campus organizations with more than 2,000 members who identify themselves as service groups.

There are also three activist groups that typically engage in service projects with the

assistance of more than 1,300 members. Although for groups such as the University's NROTC, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and student athletes it might seem as if their differences outweigh their similarities, the holidays highlight each group's devotion to service.

Sharing the holidays

Student athletes have a soft spot for children during the holiday season, and teams once again will participate in the annual "Share Your Holidays" program.

Cricket Lane, UNC director of Student-Athlete Development, said the program assigns each athletic team a family for the holidays.

The families, chosen by the Durham County Department of Social Services, will be treated to gifts and can spend time with the athletes.

Cheryl Hammond, of Durham, participated in the program along with her three children last year.

"It helped me out a lot with my kids," she said. "They were really excited."

Hammond said that her children were provided with gifts ranging from bicycles and

SEE SERVICE, PAGE 6

Student service efforts

University student groups step up their volunteer efforts during the holiday season. Here are some services to which you can contribute:

Carolina Wishing Tree

A Christmas tree will be in the Pit through Wednesday. The names of different gifts will be written on stars.

Anyone who would like to participate can take a star, purchase the gift and donate it to the organization. The event is facilitated by the UNC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

One Student, One Gift

The UNC School of Law is holding a fundraiser to buy presents for underprivileged families in Orange County, the N.C. Children's Hospital and the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service.

People can drop by the law school's front desk. Checks can be made payable to the One Student, One Gift campaign.

'Nutcracker' a classic on campus stage

BY BENNETT CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

Since its renovation two years ago, Memorial Hall has featured a wide range of contemporary acts, from hip-hop artists Common and The Roots to National Public Radio's Ira Glass.

But the new-look venue is not shying away from old-time favorites.

This weekend, members of the Carolina Ballet will perform their production of the holiday staple "Nutcracker" as part of the Carolina Performing Arts Series.

This is the sixth year that the Carolina Ballet has put on the performance — the second in Memorial Hall — and artistic director Robert Weiss said he knows that kind of experience will

ATTEND THE SHOW
Time: 8 p.m. today; 2 p.m., 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday
Location: Memorial Hall
Info: www.carolinaperformingarts.org

result in a unique performance for the venue.

"Most of the dancers doing it have done it for at least four years, and many for all six years," he said, adding that there is about a 10 percent turnover each year. "When I first choreographed it, it took months, but now it takes weeks."

Weiss is very familiar with the production,

SEE NUTCRACKER, PAGE 6



COURTESY OF UNC NEWS SERVICES

The Carolina Ballet will put on its sixth performance, the second in Memorial Hall, of "Nutcracker." Prepping for the show now takes less time because of the dancers' experience.

online | dailytarheel.com

TARGETED READING A grant from Target will give local students new books

WORLDLY SOUNDS ArtsCenter to host performance by Cape Verde group

ACCEPTING DEFEAT Democrat Larry Kissell concedes to GOP's Robin Hayes

city | page 4

SCHOOL ON SCHEDULE District officials say plans to move Orange County's alternative school into a new home are on schedule for a January opening.



arts | page 6

LAUGHING MATTER Chapel Hill Players promise students a good time during one of their two annual improv comedy shows Friday night in Hamilton 100.

this day in history

DEC. 1, 1951 ... The community recognizes the 50th anniversary of the year UNC became desegregated. More than 100 people attend a ceremony, honoring five former faculty.

weather

T-storms H 71, L 36
index
police log 2
calendar 4
games 4
sports 9
opinion 10