

## FACING THE CROWD



DTH/STACEY AXELROD

**R**enisha Howard, sophomore Carolina Union Activities Board performing arts committee member, recites Helene Johnson's "Poem" at The Sound of Black History: A Journey Into Poetry and Jazz. She has performed spoken word before but said this is the first time she's performed in front of such an intimate setting. "It's a little bit intimidating in front of a crowd this small," she said. "You can see their faces." Visit [www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com) for the full story.

## HOUSING

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have to compete against applicants who are earning more and are able to pay higher rent.

Vaughn said she does not like the changes she is asked to make.

"It strays from the basic philosophy of providing decent, safe housing for the poorest of the poor."

Vaughn's report also alarmed council members who said they are worried about the effects.

"We are putting a lot of people at risk of being homeless," council member Sally Greene said. "When the federal government cuts services, there's a price to pay."

Some public housing residents living on Pritchard Avenue Extension said they thought the idea of taking in higher earners instead of lower ones sounds unfair.

"When it's needed, it should be given to the people that need it the most," said Sonja Sanders, a nursing assistant who pays \$103 a

month for an apartment for herself and her three sons.

Sanders hopes one day to own a home and said public housing helped her when she needed it most.

"I was starting over. I didn't have any furniture, I was looking for a job. If it wasn't for this, I probably would have had a much harder time."

She originally was told the wait would be a year, but got housing after about a month. She said that getting a job probably helped her, and that she could understand wanting to give housing to people already employed, with better prospects for moving out to a place of their own.

"Honestly, if I could have afforded it, I would have preferred to live someplace else."

Reductions in funding are meant to foster self-reliance. Instead, many public housing departments are turning to their city governments as an alternative source of funding.

The Charlotte Housing Authority made a similar shift in 2002 and has absorbed the funding decreases

by cutting about 100 people from its former payroll of about 300.

Chief Financial Officer Ralph Staley said the authority still provides the same services as before but has outsourced many of them to private companies.

He added that public housing provides a service that doesn't necessarily return a profit.

"If you just based it on pure profit and loss, we would probably close every site we have."

The housing authority also draws funds from the city of Charlotte, Staley said.

Chapel Hill still is developing its budget for the upcoming fiscal year and the extent of town funding available for public housing has yet to be determined.

"I hope it will be the council's decision to fund the public housing program to the extent it needs help," Greene said.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## National and World News

## Senator admits call to federal prosecutor

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., acknowledged Sunday that he called a federal prosecutor to ask about a criminal investigation.

The prosecutor, David Iglesias, was fired by the Justice Department in December. Iglesias, a Republican, says he believes he was dismissed for resisting pressure from two members of Congress before last year's election to rush indictments in a Democratic kickback investigation.

Domenici refused last week to say if he had contacted Iglesias. But in his statement Sunday, the senator said he called Iglesias last year and asked "if he could tell me what was going on in that investigation and give me an idea of what time frame we were looking at." He insisted he did not pressure Iglesias.

## Conditions prompt review of hospitals

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Lawmakers promised a quick response and sought an independent commission as they expressed outrage Sunday over the poor conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I'm worried about if it's this bad at the outpatient facilities at Walter Reed, how is it in the rest of the country?" said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

In a letter Sunday to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Schumer asked for a commission, possibly headed by former Secretary of State Colin Powell, to investigate all post-combat medical facilities and recommend changes within the network.

President Bush last week ordered a comprehensive review of the network, which has been overwhelmed by injured troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

## China asked for openness

BEIJING (AP) — A top U.S. envoy on Sunday urged China to be more open about its military spending, hours after the government announced a 17.8 percent increase in its defense budget — the biggest in more than a decade.

The budget mainly will be spent on defense upgrades and higher wages for members of the armed forces, said Jiang Enzhu, a spokesman for China's national legislature, at a news conference.

China's military is the world's largest and has been criticized abroad for its secret spending.

## U.S. enters stronghold

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Hundreds of U.S. soldiers entered the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City on Sunday in the first major push into the area since an American-led security sweep began last month around Baghdad.

Soldiers conducted house-to-house searches through the densely populated grid of squat two- and three-story buildings, but met no resistance in a district firmly in the hands of the Mahdi Army militia led by the radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, said Lt. Col. David Oclander.

## Accounts of skirmish vary

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. Marines fleeing a suicide bomber and militant ambush on Sunday opened fire on civilian cars and pedestrians on a busy highway in eastern Afghanistan, wounded Afghans said. Up to 10 people were killed and 35 wounded in the chaotic violence, officials said.

But the U.S. military said a suicide attacker detonated an explosives-filled minivan as the American convoy approached, then militant gunmen fired on the troops inside the vehicles, who returned fire.

## GUILFORD

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to happen with the police and the DA," Dellinger said. "If they fully investigate, the truth will be clear as day."

The Greensboro Police Department ended its investigation Jan. 31, citing a lack of evidence that would allow them to bring additional charges.

The FBI recently sent the results of its preliminary investigation to the U.S. Department of Justice where it will be determined if a potential federal civil rights violation occurred, FBI Special Agent Thomas Brereton said.

All except one of the new state-

ments already were included in the nearly 40 hours of judicial proceedings at Guilford, Dean for Campus Life Aaron Fetrow said.

Neumann, after a preliminary review of the statements, said that they did not reveal any new information, but that he will meet with the alleged victims before making a decision about the case.

The football players' attorneys will confer with the district attorney about dropping the charges and putting the incident to rest amicably, North said.

"I'm most certain all of them are sorry they got mixed up in this."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## DERBY

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how streamlined they were," he said of son's design's inspiration.

All entrants received ribbons for participating, and three top placers in each category received trophies.

Bernstein said the focus of Saturday's derby was on the experience and not on whether or not participants won. "It's not really a competitive event."

Regarding the question of who had more fun at the event, parents or kids, Piccillo laughed.

"It's mutual."

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