

The Daily Tar Heel

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Established 1893
114 years of
editorial freedom

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► The Daily Tar Heel reports any inaccurate information published as soon as the error is discovered.

► Corrections for front-page errors will be printed on the front page. Any other incorrect information will be corrected on page 3. Errors committed on the Opinion Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.

► Please contact Managing Editor Andrew Liu at ajliu@email.unc.edu with issues about this policy.

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WEEKLY DOSE

Elvis impersonator kills with machete

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The King may be back, but this time in a frightening, murderous rage. When police answered an Elvis impersonator's 911 call and found that "the King," Robert Daigle, had pinned a half-naked guest to his living room floor with a 2-foot-long machete, he was immediately arrested.

Daigle entered court Monday morning for the Sept. 19, 2003 killing of James Surette. The impersonator claims the act was in self-defense.

A witness claims he saw "chunks flying off the body" of Surette who was stabbed through the heart with a knife, had his skull crushed, and was butchered with the mail-order machete.

The witness also noted Daigle showered and changed clothes before calling 911.

NOTED. It must've been the latest from Gucci. What else would've compelled a Florida woman to hold onto her purse as a man in a moving car grabbed it from her?

The woman was dragged across the asphalt of a parking lot for 15 feet before her pants caught under the car's wheels, forcing her to let go.

The purse was found later without the woman's belongings inside.

QUOTED. "He was well done. I stuck him in his butt!"

—Linda Rhodes of Garland, Texas, after she and her son accosted an alleged child rapist.

Rhodes' son was barbecuing when he heard a young boy call for help. He then saw the suspect allegedly raping the child and ran to fight the man. Rhodes jumped into the fight with a barbecue meat fork and stabbed the suspect.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

Women's health: At the launch of the 2007 N.C. Women's Health Report Card, legislators and women's health care advocates will speak at the state legislative building. Contact Nikki McKay at 966-9424 for more information.

Time: noon
Day: Today
Location: 16 West Jones St., Raleigh

A Look at Psychic Mediums: Ruth Reinsel, of the Neuroscience Laboratory in N.Y., will present the results of recent research conducted on psychic individuals. Free lecture sponsored by the Rhine Research Center. For details, call 919-309-4600.

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Day: Friday
Location: Stedman Auditorium, Duke Center for Living Campus, 3745 Erwin Road, Durham

Tomato Tasting: The Carrboro Farmers Market will host its annual tomato tasting. More than 60 varieties of tomatoes will be available, along with growing tips and recipes.
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Day: Saturday
Location: Carrboro Town Commons

Arboretum Tour: Meet at the stone gathering circle near the center of the arbor on Cameron Avenue on campus. No preregistration required.

Time: 11 a.m. to noon
Day: Saturday
Location: Coker Arboretum

Film viewing: CHICLE will present "Gitanos sin carpa/Gypsies in Chile" in Spanish and English with English subtitles. The event is free and open to the public. Call 933-0398 for more information.

Time: 5 p.m.
Day: Sunday
Location: 101 E. Weaver St.

Live music: Jack Sprat Cafe and Bar presents the acoustic duo Alex and Hugh throughout the evening.

Time: 6 p.m.
Day: Tuesday
Location: 161 E. Franklin St.

Heels in Motion: Join our mail walkers for a free breakfast while learning about health and fitness. Sign up to become a Heels in Motion member at the Streets at Southpoint

welcome desk.

Time: 8 a.m.

Day: Wednesday

Location: Maggiano's, Streets at Southpoint

Pit and Pendulum: CUAB and student groups are sponsoring food and activities.

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Day: Wednesday

Location: The Pit

Friends of Downtown: Tim Toben will be our speaker and will explain new sustainability efforts in a project which will become part of the new Chapel Hill skyline.

Time: 10 a.m.

Day: July 26

Location: Franklin Hotel, 311 W. Franklin St.

To make a calendar submission, visit www.dailytarheel.com/calendar, or e-mail Managing Editor Andrew Liu at ajliu@email.unc.edu with "calendar" in the subject line. Events will be published in the newspaper on the day and the day before they take place, and will be posted online when received. Submissions must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

Conference aims to help small farmers

Focuses on local food supplies

BY REBECCA PUTTERMAN
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — Big Mama's Restaurant is one of the few places in West Louisville, Ky., where people can sit down to a healthy home-cooked meal.

With four grocery stores serving 80,000 people in this poverty-stricken area, it isn't the way the food is cooked that keeps people coming back to Big Mama's table; it's the kind of food that's cooked.

This restaurant is what the people who attended last week's Center for Integrating Research and Action at UNC-CH's conference would call a staple of the local food system.

The conference was held in order to find solutions to the displacement of small farmers and their markets by corporate agribusinesses.

The fatback-smothered green beans and honeyed yams served at Big Mama's are fresh off the farm. They travel only a few miles from a distribution center stocked by local farmers and manned by commissioned youth from the area. The produce then serves the people who had been feeding themselves from under-stocked convenience stores.

"There's room. If you get rid of all those people sucking up dollars and cents, farmers can make money and serve needs," said Barbara Webb, who represented Kentucky's Community Farm Alliance (CFA) at the conference.

CIRA's Collaboration on N.C. Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction hosted the conference and invited CFA and others to share ideas, experience and knowledge with a host of people committed to revitalizing the farm industry in North Carolina by bringing back local food as an integral force in the market to compete with corporate, importing entities.

"The pressure in agriculture

is to get big, or to get out," said Claire Hermann, a representative of Rural Advancement Foundation International, USA, or RAFI.

Hermann further explained how, after the big tobacco buyout of 2004, North Carolina found itself in a particularly challenging situation.

"Small farms are having trouble figuring out how to make a comparable income (to tobacco) and figuring out how to stay around," she said.

The relationship between consumers and producers played a large role in the conference. Beginning a local food system necessitates locating points of connectivity between all forces in the community, such as the connection made between the needs in West Louisville at Big Mama's, and the need for a living wage.

"The challenge is getting farmers a living price, competing against highly-subsidized chains and getting food to consumers in need," said Tom Philpott, an eastern N.C. farmer.

Concerned with the idea of the independent farm becoming obsolete, Philpott focused heavily on educating consumers about the benefits to be garnered by buying local food.

"People think that food appears like magic in the grocery stores," he said.

The lack of a progressive, all-inclusive grass roots movement in N.C., like that of the CFA, was a nagging presence at the conference.

When asked what could be done in the next thirty days, people found themselves without much to say. They focused ahead on the statewide summit that CIRA hopes to host to finally bring localized food industries to fruition.

But co-coordinator of the CIRA coalition, Charles Price of the Department of Anthropology at UNC-CH, smiled as he addressed the crowd.

"Don't despair. People are taking control. There's a silent revolution out there!"

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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