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ANALYSIS

ASG might face a review

3 campuses call for new direction

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

It is becoming increasingly likely that the UNC-system Association of Student Governments will face a significant overhaul before the end of the academic year.

Forrest Gilliam, chairman of the association's Council of Student Body Presidents, resigned Thursday and added his voice to a growing chorus of student leaders calling for change.



ASU Student Body President Forrest Gilliam is calling for ASG reform.

"We can agree that ASG is in shambles right now," Gilliam wrote in an e-mail that circulated among student body presidents. "I don't think it can be fixed."

Though he pledged to remain personally involved in the association, Gilliam's call for dramatic reform echoed that of two other campuses that have refused to participate in the ASG.

UNC-Asheville stopped attending ASG events in the spring, and UNC-Charlotte announced last week that it would follow suit.

With three of the system's 17 campuses expressing deep dissatisfaction with the statewide student association, there could be a real chance of intervention by the UNC-system Board of Governors.

"I think it's time each side presents their opinion, and have General Administration listen and make a decision," Gilliam said.

The system's board created the contemporary ASG in 2002, imposing a \$1 student fee to fund the association. Before that, the group received about \$2,500 annually; it now collects almost \$200,000.

With a substantial budget, the association has been able to attract participation from the system's smaller, more remote campuses. Before 2002, N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill largely dominated the association.

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Homecoming headliners picked

Augustana, Robert Randolph set to perform

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY
ARTS EDITOR

Students will get a double dose of musical performances during this year's Homecoming celebrations.

Memorial Hall will play host to up-and-coming rock group Augustana on Oct. 27, followed by Robert Randolph and the Family Band on Oct. 30.

Breaking the trend from R&B and hip-hop performers who have performed at Homecoming in recent years, Carolina Athletic Association's Homecoming Co-chairwoman Laura Sheppard said this is the first time she remembers two headliners performing at the event.

"To bring two concerts has been a goal for at least three years," she said.

"It's really different from what we've had in the past couple of years, and we thought this is a good pair to reach the majority of the people."

CAA and the Carolina Union Activities Board, which also sponsors the event, worked together to select the two groups for months.

"We collaborate with CUAB every year, and we come up with a wish list and narrow it down based on price and availability and who we think people would like," Sheppard said.

"These groups are both very different and high-energy so I think people will enjoy them."

Robert Randolph — perhaps most renowned for his skill on the pedal steel guitar — ranked in Rolling Stone's list of the 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time in 2003.

"Boston," Augustana's first single, climbed the charts after being featured on the TV show "One Tree Hill."

SEE HOMECOMING, PAGE 6



Dancers flare their colorful skirts during a performance of the Polka las Bicicletas, a dance with roots in early Mexican folk dances, at the Fiesta de la Familia in Carrboro on Saturday afternoon.

Families celebrate culture

Carrboro fiesta retains turnout

BY ANASA HICKS
STAFF WRITER

Spanish music played and the smell of foods from Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Venezuela drifted through the air Sunday at the Carrboro Town Commons.

On the edge of the Commons, situated next to Carrboro Town Hall, children made tissue-paper flowers, climbed the small jungle gym, played and had their faces painted.

Hundreds of residents turned out Sunday for the Fiesta de la Familia in Carrboro to eat food and enjoy music.

Fears of immigration raids had affected turnout at a similar event last weekend but did not appear to impact Sunday's fiesta, as a large group filled the grassy area surrounded by booths.

"Honestly, we don't know what to expect," El Centro Latino Executive Director Ben Balderas said Friday before the fiesta.

"We'll have a good time no matter what."

This year 18,000 fewer people attended La Fiesta del Pueblo at the N.C. state fairgrounds in Raleigh than last year.

El Pueblo, a statewide advocacy group, organized last week's La Fiesta del Pueblo.

Advocacy Director Marisol Jiménez-McGee said fewer people attended because of rumors that immigration officials would be there to arrest illegal aliens. She

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BEN BALDERAS, EL CENTRO LATINO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BEFORE FIESTA

said the rumors were untrue.

"We have seen several cases in the past month where literally dozens of people have been taken in the middle of the night from their homes," Jiménez-McGee said.

Balderas said he wasn't sure the same thing would happen in Orange County.

"Orange County is the only county that has gone on record saying their officers will not act as immigration agents," he said.

Balderas said he hadn't heard any rumors of immigration agents at the Fiesta de la Familia.

And political issues appeared to be far from everyone's minds at the Fiesta de la Familia.

Mexican jewelry and accessories, Brazilian paintings and inexpensive clothing were available for purchase.

Across from the food and goods were tables of groups and companies including Orange County Human Rights and Relations, BlueCross and BlueShield, the University's Student Health Action Coalition and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center.

El Centro, which organized the Fiesta de la Familia, is a nonprofit organization in Carrboro dedicated to serving the town's Hispanic citi-

SEE FIESTA, PAGE 6

Congress provides minority funding

\$500M given on top of Pell Grants

BY REBECCA PUTTERMAN
STAFF WRITER

For many students at N.C. Central University, financial aid from the federal government is a critical lifeline.

More than 60 percent of N.C. Central students are recipients of the Federal Pell Grant, the largest direct federal-aid program that helps to offset the financial burden of low-income students.

The grant has been limited to a maximum of \$4,050 annually for the past four years, but an act that

passed the U.S. Congress on Sept. 7 will lift the grant ceiling.

N.C. Central students, along with thousands of others across the state and nation, are expected to benefit significantly from the College Cost Reduction Act, which promises to raise the Pell Grant to \$5,400 during the next five years. Minority-serving institutions will see an additional infusion of \$500 million.

"This act will certainly, over time, have a positive and profound impact on our students," N.C. Central Chancellor Charlie Nelms said.

More than three-quarters of

SEE PELL GRANTS, PAGE 6

Blue lights ready by year's end

BY BRIAN AUSTIN
STAFF WRITER

By the end of the year, emergency blue lights should be installed at three off-campus locations, student government officials said.

Student Body President Eve Carson's administration is working to finalize a proposal to the Chapel Hill Town Council by its Sept. 24 meeting to create both emergency call boxes and street-level lighting.

"The idea with blue lights is that they deter crime," said Katie Sue Zellner, student government's chief of staff. "There's a comfort level there."

Blue lights have long been a goal of student government administrations and last spring, former Student Body President James Allred submitted a petition to the Town Council for four blue lights to be installed off campus.

One blue-light box was deemed unnecessary because it is across the street from a fire department, where someone is always available in case of emergency.

The project was not fully implemented

before the end of Allred's term, and the Carson administration is now working to finish it.

The proposal grants \$80,000 in earmarked money from UNC's safety and security fee to fund the project. Half of the money will be used to install the three call boxes, and the other half will go to street-level lighting in nearby areas.

"Street-level lighting is basically limited area lighting," said Kumar Neppalli, traffic engineer for the town of Chapel Hill.

Neppalli said the lighting is mainly for pedestrians, illuminating a smaller area, such as a sidewalk, with more intense light.

"A lot of the street-level lighting is going into areas densely populated by students, such as by Rosemary Street and by McCauley Street," Zellner said.

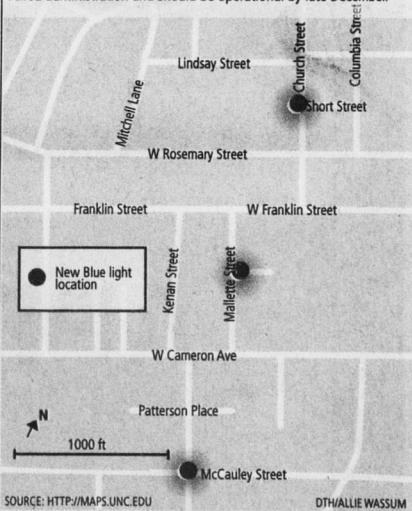
The Chapel Hill Police Department will maintain the call boxes, and the town will supply power and phone lines.

Student Body Treasurer Jordan Myers said the new call boxes will be completed

SEE BLUE LIGHTS, PAGE 6

Emergency Blue Lights

The new blue light locations below were originally proposed by the Allred administration and should be operational by late December.



SOURCE: HTTP://MAPS.UNC.EDU

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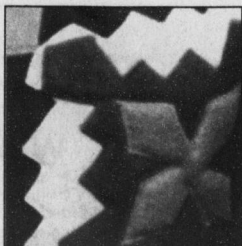
STATE OF IRAQ

The many reports coming out of Iraq, and the infinite number of ways politicians and experts interpret them, make understanding evaluations of the country's status difficult.

city | page 5

UNITED PROGRESS

The Triangle's United Way kicks off its 2007 campaign season with tours of the Seymour Center and Inter-Faith Council for Social Services for potential contributors.



university | page 4

NEWLY OPENED HOUSE

The University's American Indian Center, opened this semester, hosts an open house featuring traditional songs and performances.

this day in history

SEPT. 17, 1968 ...

The Undergraduate Library readies for its grand opening, but a lack of bookshelves causes delays. The shelf manufacturer said the shelves could be ready as late as November.

weather

Mostly sunny
H 79, L 55

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