

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, Monday's story "Tar Heels place 3 in top 16" incorrectly stated that a UNC doubles team would advance to the ITA Nationals if they made it to the ITA Southeast Regional Indoor Championship finals. The team had to win the finals to advance. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Traffic shuts down online ticket distribution system

Monday was the first day to register for student basketball tickets, but fans who tried to use tarheelblue.com to register were shut out of the system for most of the morning and afternoon.

The Web site is run through national ticket distribution system Paclion, which was overly strained because of baseball World Series ticket traffic, said Clint Gwaltney, associate athletic director for ticket and Smith Center operations.

"As we explained to them, that was not a very good time for them to go down," Gwaltney said. "They realize that, and we're working hard to rectify the problem."

The system was available for student use and access by 4 p.m. Students can register for games in November until midnight Oct. 31.

Because students are not ranked by the order they register, Gwaltney said there is no benefit to being the first or the last to sign up.

Officials say smoking ban slated to begin in January

Chancellor James Moeser announced Monday that a ban of smoking within 100 feet of campus buildings will go into effect Jan. 1.

The ban was proposed following an N.C. General Assembly ruling July 1 that allows N.C. schools to determine their own tobacco product rules and regulations.

The campuswide ban would only affect smoking and not ban all types of tobacco.

UNC's Employee Forum and Faculty Council generally supported the ban, and the student advisory committee to the chancellor held two forums to gather feedback.

Campus group puts on week to raise cancer awareness

Pink ribbons will be displayed in the Pit this week to increase cancer awareness. The event is part of Cancer Awareness Week and was organized by the Carolina Cancer Focus organization.

Cancer Awareness Week informs people what cancer is and how to prevent it. Events take place to help raise funds. The group will be in the Pit giving out information and food today through Thursday.

According to the American Cancer Society, 1,444,920 people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2007 in the U.S. North Carolina is expected to have 38,210 cases.

CITY BRIEFS

Carrboro police association supports candidates in race

The Carrboro Police Officers Association met with each candidate running for Carrboro mayor and the Board of Aldermen to determine the group's endorsements, which were released Monday.

"After a frank and open exchange of ideas, we were able to learn where the candidates stand on issues that affect not only police officers, but the entire town of Carrboro," Carrboro Police Officers Association President Jason Pelouin said in a press release.

The officers' endorsements include incumbent Mark Chilton for mayor and Joal Hall Broun, Sharon Cook and Lydia Lavelle for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.

NATION BRIEFS

N.C.-based company accused of stealing millions from U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—The Democratic chairman of a House watchdog committee said Monday that Blackwater USA violated tax laws and might have defrauded the government of millions of dollars, a charge the embattled security firm said is groundless.

Rep. Henry Waxman, a Californian who chairs the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, released a March letter from the Internal Revenue Service that states the company's classification of a security guard as an independent contractor, instead of company personnel, was "without merit."

Under U.S. law, companies must pay Social Security and other federal taxes on their employees. But unlike other security companies in Iraq, Blackwater says the guards it trains, equips and deploys to Iraq and elsewhere are independent contractors hired directly by the government.

— From staff and wire reports

Cancer research goals set

Demographic disparities a priority

BY HANNAH HARRILL
STAFF WRITER

The governance committee of the University Cancer Research Fund has established research priorities for spending its initial \$25 million for cancer research.

The fund, created by the N.C. General Assembly on July 31, will increase the investment to provide \$50 million annually beginning in 2009.

Money generated from taxes on all noncigarette tobacco purchases goes toward this fund.

The governance committee oversees the planning and spending of the money.

"We want the people of North Carolina to understand what we're doing and how they will benefit,"

said Dr. William Roper, dean of the School of Medicine, CEO of the UNC Health Care System and member of the committee.

The grant funds research only, but officials said this will translate into a positive impact in the future, such as clinical trials of new treatments.

One area the committee will assess is cancer in North Carolina, with particular attention to disparities among different demographics.

"There are some racial and ethnic groups that have greater numbers and more severe cases of cancer than others," Roper said.

"We need to know why that is the case and what can be done to

intervene."

Committee members said that new methods of discovering which groups have greater risks and how these risks can be prevented are being researched and that the new funds will bring expansion.

Another priority focuses on developing clinical application of genetics and genomics.

Some discoveries have been made regarding gene patterns and cancer, such as how specific patterns can affect response to treatment.

These discoveries, which are mostly in research and not yet in medical practice, can change the way cancer is treated and prevented if new tests are created that hospitals can use, said Dr. Shelton Earp, director of the

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Research priorities

- ▶ Assessing cancer in North Carolina with particular attention to disparities.

- ▶ Promoting innovative research in cancer prevention and early detection.

- ▶ Developing clinical application of genetics and genomics.

- ▶ Turning basic research into new cancer therapies.

- ▶ Defining early response to cancer therapy and improving cancer clinical trials.

- ▶ Enhancing clinical excellence across our multidisciplinary cancer teams and across the state.

- ▶ Initiating a nation-leading, multi-component cancer survivorship research program.

Plan to address group's poverty

Aid for homeless Hispanics in area

BY KELSIE MURDOCK
STAFF WRITER

The Hispanic population in Chapel Hill more than quadrupled from 1990 to 2000, according to the town's 2007 data book.

And because the local Hispanic community continues to grow, the demographic's presence is being factored into the decisions and projects of local governments.

As town leaders continue work with Orange County's 10-year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, which officially began in September, they will consider the Hispanic portion of the homeless population.

"The ratio of Hispanic people is

probably one out of every 10 people, which is not a lot," said Laurie Tucker, the Residential Services Director of Inter-Faith Council.



Despite low numbers of Hispanics at local shelters, the 10-year plan, which assessed poverty locally to help shape services, reported that the Hispanic population was a major player in Chapel Hill's population living in poverty.

In Orange County, 4.7 percent of the Hispanic population is unemployed. The unemployment rate for all Orange County residents registers at 3.71 percent, according to the 2000 U.S. census.

The 10-year plan reports that 24 percent of the Hispanic households in Orange County reported an income below \$15,000 compared to 15 percent of white households.

In conjunction with the 10-year plan, Project Homeless Connect, a one-stop, one-day center that links those in need with services, such as health care, will be held Thursday.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Sally Greene, who also serves as chairwoman of the Partnership to End Homelessness executive team, said organizers of the event took special care to make sure all event information was in Spanish.

"There's certainly an awareness that we have Spanish speaking people among our homeless population," Greene said.

Greene said the 10-year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness will evolve during the 10 years to account for shifts in population, including a growing Hispanic community.

Shelters, including Tucker's, have started adapting to the Hispanic population, but a language barrier still exists. Many shelters rely on bilingual relatives to translate.

Tucker said many of the women can speak some English or use their children as translators.

"Of course, they don't always translate correctly," Tucker said. "If they are in trouble, they aren't

SEE **HOMELESS**, PAGE 4

"A lot of them don't understand that being out of their seat can be dangerous if there is an accident." **MARY LIN TRUELOVE**, DIRECTOR OF CHCCS TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



Children line up outside a school bus at Carrboro Elementary School on Monday afternoon. Monday was the first day of School Bus Safety Week, and Buster, a remote-controlled talking school bus, is one of the innovative ways children can learn about bus safety.

SAFE ON THE ROAD

School districts hold week promoting bus safety

BY KRISTEN CRESANTE
STAFF WRITER

With the help of Buster the Bus, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and Orange County Schools are focusing on safe travel for students who ride buses.

Buster is a remote-controlled talking school bus that is one of the safety programs featured at the Back to School Fair at the beginning of each school year.

As he drives on the roads of a model town, Buster teaches the children how they should behave while entering, riding and exiting the bus.

And Buster is not the only method used to inform kids about bus safety.

Monday marked the beginning of School Bus Safety Week, sponsored by several groups including the National School Transportation Association and bus manu-

facturers. The week is designed to encourage public education of school bus safety.

Both Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City school districts post lists of discipline rules on the buses. Strict punishments are enforced upon students who do not follow these rules. Safety videos are shown in the schools, and teachers and principals are encouraged to promote bus safety at school.

Evacuation drills are usually held twice each year to teach children how to escape the buses in case of an emergency.

Mary Lin Truelove, director of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools transportation department, said officials prefer to hold these drills when a driver is available to be on the bus because communication between the drivers and the students is essential.

"There is a lot of one-on-one that goes

into the daily operation of keeping the kids safe," she said. "A lot of them don't understand that being out of their seat can be dangerous if there is an accident."

Reliable bus drivers are another key factor in ensuring the safety of children on buses.

Drivers in both districts go through training courses. All have first-aid training, and some are CPR certified. They are also supposed to be in constant communication with their passengers.

District leaders also work to keep the buses running smoothly.

"We have the best mechanics in the world on site that monitor the buses every day," Truelove said.

Each bus, new or old, gets inspected every 30 days in addition to the regular state inspections.

Both districts have several new buses, but they also have a few that were purchased as

SEE **SCHOOL BUS**, PAGE 4

Dean search to be internal Student government's advocacy draws fire

Graduate School follows UNC pattern

BY ANTHONY MCPEEK
STAFF WRITER

When the search committee for the dean of the Graduate School begins reviewing applications in January, it will be looking exclusively for tenured candidates within UNC.

The committee was formed after current Dean Linda Dykstra announced in September that she will be stepping down in July.

"We have a number of very well-qualified people within our own community," said Lee McLean, associate dean of Department of the Allied Health Sciences and chairwoman of the search committee.

McLean said Provost Bernadette Gray-Little ultimately made the decision to close the search to external candidates. Search committee members agreed with the decision in their first meeting.

The decision reflects a trend of internal appointments of high-end faculty positions at UNC. In recent years, search committees have filled the positions for the provost and deans of the School of Law, College of Arts and Sciences and the Summer School with UNC faculty.

The search committee for the law dean had to go back to the

drawing board in spring 2006 — eventually selecting an internal candidate — when its external pick denied the deanship offer.

Dykstra was chosen as an internal candidate 11 years ago.

McLean said that for the Graduate School, internal candidates are especially appropriate because it is a part-time position.

The new dean will maintain any prior research and will also keep a role in his or her home department because of the nature of the position, McLean said.

External candidates would not have established roles or research projects within UNC departments.

McLean also said that UNC needs someone who is familiar with the school and can maintain the momentum Dykstra initiated.

"As far as continuity is concerned, having an internal candidate is a plus," said Lauren Anderson, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

And the internal preference goes beyond UNC. The University of Michigan, one of UNC's peer institutions, selected its graduate school dean equivalent internally.

McLean said that the committee aims to narrow down candidates to a list of two to four that will be recommended to Gray-Little in late February or early March. The provost will then make the final decision for the deanship and negotiate a salary. Dykstra's salary is \$223,700.

In the short time since the committee launched, it has received seven nominations for the position, representing departments and schools across campus, McLean said.

"It's truly a cross-campus effort to continue the good work of Linda," she said of the dean selection process.

Anderson said she hopes the new dean will build the sense of community in the school, offer more career development for graduate students and have ideas on how to broaden graduate student resources.

"The biggest challenge I think will be keeping graduate students on the radar when campuswide policies are being talked about," she said.

Anderson also said she hopes the hope of other high-profile searches will not diminish attention to or discussion about the search for the graduate-school dean. "Unfortunately it's going on at the same time as the search for the chancellor."

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UNC-C students stand up for tax

BY ARIEL ZIRULNICK
STAFF WRITER

UNC-Charlotte student government's use of university resources to influence a Mecklenburg County ballot initiative has sparked further-reaching debate about university involvement in municipal politics.

UNC-Charlotte's Student Government Association has come under fire for using its student-funded Web site to oppose the repeal of a Mecklenburg County transit tax, which Student Body President Justin Ritchie says is the main source of funding for public buses that many students rely on.

"Something like this that we can take a stand on and can make a difference and that is within our jurisdiction — there's no reason why we shouldn't weigh in on it," Ritchie said.

Those opposed to UNC-C student government's involvement question whether obligatory student fees, which fund the organi-

"Where you cross the line is when you use government money to promote one side."

BILL JAMES, MECKLENBURG COUNTY COMMISSIONER, ON UNC-C EFFORTS

zation, are considered a tax and therefore government money.

Mecklenburg County Commissioner Bill James said state law prohibits government money from being used to take sides in an electoral contest. Because the chancellor has control over the student fees being used to express student government association opinions, he said, the fees are under government control and therefore considered a tax.

"Schools take positions all the time," James said. "Where you cross the line is when you use government money to promote one side of a particular ballot issue."

In Chapel Hill, student involvement in local politics in recent years has been scrutinized for the

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