

N.C. TREE

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And N.C. trees have been displayed 10 times since 1966, when such records began being kept. Freeman has also won the N.C. wreath contest four times, the national wreath contest twice and the N.C. tree contest once, which gave him the honor of presenting trees to the governor. A White House contingent including grounds foreman Mike Lawn and White House florist Nancy Clarke visited Freeman's farm in October after he was named grand champion in the National Christmas Tree Association contest. But Freeman said his most rewarding Christmas tree moments stem not from prizes or titles, but from selling trees on a retail lot. "I try to get down to the retail lot whenever I can," Freeman said. "Seeing a family come year after year and select their tree, seeing the excitement that the kids have picking out a real tree, that's my favorite part of the business." And Freeman's office manager, Sheila Jordan, said the honor

couldn't have come to a better guy. Freeman has been involved in the Christmas tree business since he was 16, working at a retail lot while attending high school. After graduating from N.C. State University with a Bachelor of Science in fisheries and wildlife sciences in 1985, Freeman became involved with the N.C. 4-H Youth Development Program, a youth development program that emphasizes learning by doing. He then decided to go into Christmas tree farming full time. He shears each tree once a year by lowering the top and cutting the sides, which encourages the branches to grow into the tree's interior and increases the density. Trees are not harvested for at least 10 years, Freeman said. "Growing the trees, you get to spend so much time working outside and get to see a lot of nature and wildlife, and that's what makes it nice," he said. "You get to see a seed grow and develop, and take care of it." *Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.*

FORENSICS

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Academy of Sciences assessed the scientific validity of the analysis, leading to doubts about the results' reliability. The FBI announced in 2005 that it would no longer use this technique and sent letters to about 300 state and local crime labs and prominent legal associations. The Post and "60 Minutes" found at least 250 cases in which bullet lead analysis was used as evidence. Rosen took on Hunt's case after a former student who represented Hunt's co-defendant, Jerry Cashwell, revealed to Rosen that Cashwell said before his 2003 suicide that he alone was responsible for the murders. "I'm absolutely convinced that (Hunt is) innocent," Rosen said. Rosen filed a motion in Cumberland County Superior Court for Hunt's case to be re-examined. That court denied the motion, as did the N.C. Court of Appeals. Now Rosen is pursuing an audience with the N.C. Supreme Court. "I think it raises questions about

a lot of cases," Rosen said of bullet lead analysis. "We don't know how many cases in which this has been used in North Carolina." Working with The Post and "60 Minutes," the Innocence Project, an organization dedicated to exonerating the wrongfully convicted, identified cases such as Hunt's in which people were sentenced based on bullet lead analysis. "The Hunt case is particularly troubling to us," said Eric Ferrero, director of communications for the project. "It reeks of injustice." In a statement released Nov. 17, the FBI lab announced its intentions of launching another campaign of outreach, analysis and case review. "The digging into individual cases done by the Innocence Project, The Washington Post and CBS News brought some serious concerns to our attention," stated John Miller, FBI assistant director for public affairs, in a press release. "The FBI is committed to addressing those concerns. It's the right thing to do." The Innocence Project began monitoring the FBI's outreach after it discontinued the use of bullet lead analysis in 2005. Ferrero said the FBI did not clearly explain the flawed technique to prosecutors and attorneys nationwide. "What they've announced is very good," he said. "It's also several years too late." Ferrero said that the FBI needs to do a thorough review of thousands of cases in which bullet lead analysis was used as evidence and that the courts need to step back their reliance on some forensic techniques. David Harold, interim executive director of the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice, said many other issues plague the justice system, including mistaken identification, witness intimidation and offering jail witnesses lighter sentences in return for testimony. "Prosecutors often forget that their job is not to get a conviction; it's to do justice," Harold said. But Harold said he responds to wrong convictions based on faulty forensic techniques the same way he responds to any other: "It's the job of the criminal justice system to put up safeguards."

EMPLOYEES

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said Moeser is not the first UNC chancellor to focus more on raising money than morale. "The University, for a long time, has suffered in the caliber of our chancellors," she said. "What we have is a professional administrator that goes from school to school every five to seven years." Despite these criticisms, Moeser said he is sympathetic to employee and staff needs. "They make the trains run on time," he said. "So we're enormously appreciative of them, and they're a vital force for the smooth, efficient operation of the University." In response to rising concerns about staff needs, Moeser worked to create the Chancellor's Task Force for a Better Workplace in 2003, which was charged with evaluating employee needs. Top recommendations from the task force included establishing an office to act as a confidential mediator for concerned staff, providing more health benefits and launching a supervisor training initiative. "Just putting the task force together was a step in the right direction," said Griffin, who served as co-chairman of the task force with Moeser. Within a year of the task force's report, Moeser had appointed a two-member team to serve as mediators in the newly created Ombuds Office. "Sometimes all you need is somebody to talk to if you have a problem," Griffin said. "It's helped, and it's doing a lot of good." Other initiatives, such as improved training programs and a laptop loan program, also were under way by 2005.

into this inflexible state system." Though many agree the chancellor could have done more to lobby for changes to employee wages, Moeser said focusing on faculty salary increases was more important because they are part of the budget. "It's our job to lobby for faculty support," Moeser said. "Staff salaries are not part of the University budget, but in fact we have advocated for increases in staff salaries, even though it's not part of our budget." Griffin said he worked with Moeser to increase the minimum wage for campus and hospital staff to exceed \$10 an hour at a time when the least paid workers were receiving only about \$8.75 an hour.

Lingering worries

While Moeser has won some employees over, others still are concerned by his level of support. Brenda Denzler, secretary of the Employee Forum, said that she thought highly of Moeser's efforts early in his tenure but that she since has questioned his willingness to work with the forum. "My experience on the forum has led me to question the accuracy of my earlier impression," Denzler said. "I have been repeatedly disappointed with his reactions to simple forum recommendations. ... He's been saying 'no' for the past couple of years." Recent controversy about the layoff of 15 dental technicians has led to protests and a lawsuit. Moeser supported School of Dentistry Dean John Williams' decision and denied an Employee Forum request to delay the outsourcing for 12 months. "I understand where the chancellor was coming from, but it possibly needed a better look than what it got," Griffin said. "Employees at the University have great pride in what they do, and when you go outside, you don't get that." After multiple forums and protests, Moeser later agreed to extend the employees' jobs for more than a month. The employees officially were laid off Jan. 5. Two of the employees have filed a lawsuit against the University, citing age discrimination as a factor in their dismissal. Mediation failed to produce a resolution, and a court date is scheduled for next month. But Moeser said he doesn't want the few controversies to cloud successful employee relationships. He said it's often easier to hone in on the bad, rather than the good. "The real story here is one of excellent staff relationships — of staff working with faculty, of staff working with students and a high level of satisfaction in the workplace."

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Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PAY INCREASE

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youngful squad, kept UNC competitive in most games while drawing sellout crowds to Kenan Stadium. There had been speculation in recent weeks that Davis might be a possibility for the coaching job at the University of Arkansas — where he played college football. "We wanted to make sure that he recognized that we understood (the impact he has made). ... We wanted to make sure that his contract was competitive with coaches of his caliber," said board Chairman Roger Perry when asked whether the threat of other schools played a part in the raise and extension. Perry said that the development came about in the last few weeks and that he expects the trust-

ees to pass the contract without much opposition. He also said the amount of money needed to retain a high-profile coach causes concern for the future. "Yeah, surely it does. It's a lot of concentration, but it's the marketplace," he said. "If you're going to be competitive in football, as we are in every other aspect of University life, that's pretty much what the market is for it." Perry added that he didn't expect a raise to happen every year. The University has come under attack for the large contract after Davis' original well-financed deal last fall — in particular by former UNC-system President Bill Friday, who has vocalized his criticism of the deal and the general money-driven "arms race" in college athletics.

Friday lamented that the raise will give Davis a salary several times that of the chancellor and also mentioned that numerous faculty members have told him how "deeply they feel about (the contract)" in the past two days. "The raise itself was much greater than that provided (to) the chancellor, and the raise standing alone is greater than the annual salary of distinguished professors at Chapel Hill." Davis answered a question concerning the criticism after Saturday's game. "I guess you understand everybody has ideas and opinions about it, but I mean I want to make it perfectly clear — I really, truly love this place." UNC senior Zach Padgett approved of the decision to upgrade Davis. "It seems kind of ridiculous after going 4-8 to give a guy \$300,000 more a year, but in the long run I think he's necessary to the program. In the next few years I think we're really going to see that pay off."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@email.unc.edu.

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

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Milestone Advisors, LLC: Summer Investment, Banking Analyst (deadline 11/29/07)
Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.: Investment Banking Analyst Summer Internship (deadline 11/29/07)
Wachovia Corporation: Details Pending

Full-Time

Northwestern Mutual Financial Network: Financial Representative (deadline 12/31/07)

WORKSHOPS

*Career Clinic: 11/28/07, 12:00 pm, Wilson Library-Pleasant Family Room
Teaching English Abroad: 11/28/07, 4:00 pm, Carolina Union 3503
*Note that this program fulfills one of the modules for UCS' Career Development Certificate Program. If you are not yet enrolled in this program, and have an interest, please see further information at <http://careers.unc.edu/certificate.html>.

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SHOPPING
FROM PAGE 1

retail shops that are downtown. "Business definitely goes up, but for us the larger amount of sales occurs in September when students come back and are more willing to spend money," said Jon Mackey, an employee of Schoolkids Records. For places such as Tarheel Book Store, which has Carolina apparel and textbooks, some items sell better during the holidays, while textbook sales are slow. "Business, apparel sales in particular, definitely goes up during the holiday season because of Christmas and basketball season," store employee Christina Steger said. Julian's owner Alexander Julian said this year's Black Friday wasn't hugely significant for sales. "We had a busy day, but Black Friday usually benefits stores with moderately priced sales," he said. For Julian's, which caters more to graduates and alumni, the holiday season plays a larger role in sustaining the business. "This month is always our busiest month," Julian said. "Thankfully, people are still enjoying giving."

Assistant City Editor Catarina Saraiva contributed reporting. Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Carolina Ballet
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