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BASKETBALL TICKET SYSTEM EVOLVES

From camp-outs to online lottery

BY AARON FIEDLER
STAFF WRITER

It's 5:58 p.m. on a Friday, and 1,000 students are lined up across the street from the Smith Center.

As the time nears 6 p.m., everyone inches closer and closer to the curb.

Finally, someone makes the move toward the Smith Center.

Everyone else charges forward, dodging one another and cars — all in the name of UNC men's basketball tickets.

A Friday afternoon such as this used to be part of the camp-out ticket distribution system, which was in place at UNC in the late '90s. That system mandated that students couldn't line up at the Smith Center for tickets until 6 p.m. on Fridays. Tickets were distributed at 8 a.m. the next day.

The stories of dodging cars and running to the Smith Center contribute to the ever-changing face of the ticket distribution system, which has dominated the attention of most UNC students for the past 10 years.

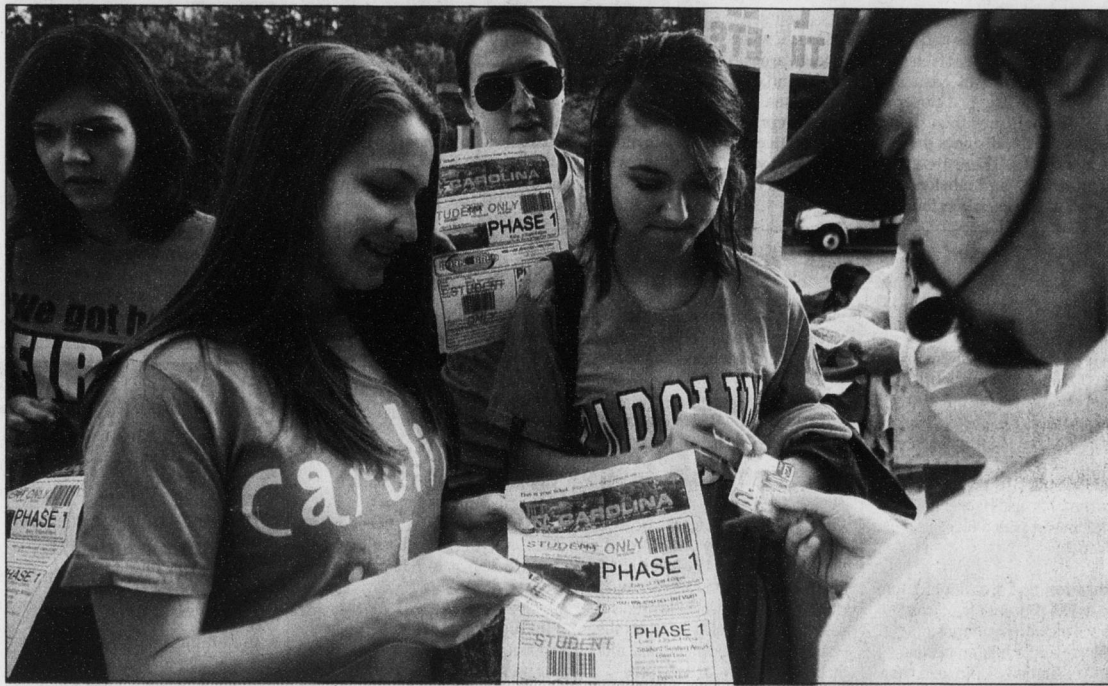
This season brings about the fourth major change since the 1998-99 season, and each new system has welcomed its own round of student criticism and frustration.

"With every new system there has been discord," said Clint Gwaltney, associate athletic director for ticket and Smith Center operations.

Gwaltney, who's been at the University for more than a decade, is one of several UNC officials who has had a hand in the ticket distribution system changes.

"The biggest challenge is that people who are against the policy are a lot louder than the ones who

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DTH/JOHN ADKISSON

Freshmen Amanda Weatherly, left, and Jessica Metcalf, right, get their phase-one tickets checked by Alan Braswell before the men's basketball game against Iona College on Nov. 18. Under the current ticket distribution system, students are allowed to enter during one of seven phases.

Other ACC school ticket distributions

N.C. State University
Student government determines ticket policy, and the athletic department implements it.

University of Maryland
An online lottery system is in place in which fans are awarded loyalty points, functioning similar to UNC's Carolina Fever.

The first 1,000 tickets in the distribution are awarded solely on loyalty points.

The remaining 3,000 tickets are awarded through the lottery.

Wake Forest University
Students pay a \$15 fee to become a member of the Screamin' Demons.

They get a T-shirt, a pass to scan themselves in at games, e-mails from coaches and Screamin' Demons parties.

Members receive 2,200 tickets, and 250 of those tickets are allocated to student government, which then has a list for students to sign up on a first-come, first-served basis.

Basketball ticket distribution over time



APRIL 1994

In the camp-out system, tickets are no longer given out on a first-come, first-served basis. A random spot in line is selected, and tickets are distributed from there. Also, students are allowed to begin lining up only at 6 p.m. the night before the distribution.



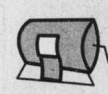
AUGUST 1995

A 24-hour time limit is instituted on students lining up for tickets. Also, when it gets too cold outside, students will be allowed to camp out in the Smith Center.



AUGUST 1998

The camp-out system comes to an end, and the bracelet system is implemented. Students must get a number the Wednesday or Thursday before distribution; a lottery is held, and then tickets are distributed based on how close a student's number was to the lottery number.



JUNE 2006

The bracelet system is retired, and the online lottery is introduced as the new system. Students sign up online for as many game lotteries as they want. Students are then randomly selected to receive tickets before each game.



SEPTEMBER 2007

The online system is modified, creating limitations on when students can sign up for tickets. Students are allowed in the Smith Center in general admission phases.

SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES

DTH/MINDY NICHAMIN

Students react to new system

BY ABBY FARSON
STAFF WRITER

The new basketball ticket distribution system received generally favorable reviews from students who attended the first two regular-season home games against Iona College and South Carolina

State University.

About 10,000 students signed up for tickets to both games, said Clint Gwaltney, associate athletic director for Smith Center and ticket operations. There were about 6,000 tickets available for each game.

Of those who received tickets through the lottery, 58 percent came to the Iona game, and 48 percent came to the South Carolina State game.

"These two games were not

SEE REACTION, PAGE 6

Creative crowd drawn to Hillsborough history

Local authors gather in town

BY TRICIA THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

As the colonial capital of North Carolina and a meeting place for government officials, Hillsborough's rich history has helped it progress into a community for famous artists.

The town, located 12 miles away from Franklin Street, has become a gathering place for local authors.

"The history here is what made it into an interesting town," poet Max Preston said.

"I told every writer I knew, 'Come to Hillsborough.'"

But what brings such a unique group of people to the area goes beyond its many historic cemeteries and documents.

"Hillsborough has so many creative people that are so attentive to one another," said Mike Troy,

Hillsborough's first poet laureate. "I've written several poems about that very thing, and it is what makes this town, I think, be so special. It's a gentler life," he said.

In Troy's poem, "I Wish," he writes about magic in the local coffee shop, Cup A Joe, and the downtown book store, Brick Alley Books.

Artists often meet at the coffee shop to discuss current projects and give each other feedback.

"The big-time writers like Lee (Smith), (Michael) Malone and (Allan) Gurganus are so kind to writers trying to publish their first book," Preston said.

"They are encouraging and help them know what pitfalls to look for."

Another appeal of Hillsborough is local support and understanding.

"Artists tend to gravitate towards universities," author Lee Smith said.

"The universities have always

"Hillsborough has so many creative people that are so attentive to one another."

MIKE TROY, HILLSBOROUGH POET LAUREATE

been friendly to the arts and more liberal."

Many artists said they like the combination of nearby colleges for inspiration and support but a smaller, calmer town where they can reside.

"One of the benefits is that people leave you alone. Writers are a combination of wanting to go to parties but also being left alone in a room for days," novelist Gurganus said.

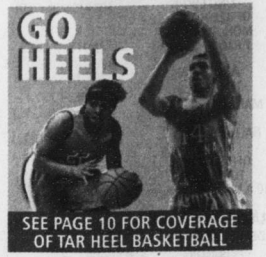
As a Hillsborough native, photographer Elizabeth Matheson

SEE AUTHORS, PAGE 6



DTH/KEITH GROSE

Acclaimed N.C. authors Lee Smith, Randall Kenan and Allan Gurganus share anecdotes during a gathering of authors at Brick Alley Books in Hillsborough on Friday. The town has become a center point for creative discussion.



SEE PAGE 10 FOR COVERAGE OF TAR HEEL BASKETBALL

Reed leaves mixed review

Some criticize his lack of teaching

BY MEGHAN PRICHARD
STAFF WRITER

When Dan Reed starts his new job at Microsoft Corp. today, his farewells will be a mix of sorrowful goodbyes and good riddances.

Reed, the chancellor's eminent professor and senior adviser for strategy and innovation to the chancellor, has taken a position at Microsoft, where he will serve as director of scalable computing and multicore.

In his four years at UNC, Reed served as a professor, chief information officer, vice chancellor for Information Technology Services, director of the Renaissance Computing Institute and other advisory roles, bringing in \$305,000 per year as he departs.

"I'm disappointed that he's leaving because he's an extraordinary person, and he'll be missed," said Kirk Wilhelmsen, professor in the departments of genetics and neurology and one of RENCIS's chief domain scientists.

Although his legacy will include



Former CIO Dan Reed has said his expanded roles limited his teaching ability.

SEE REED, PAGE 6

online

WE THE PEOPLE

UNC students gathered Saturday to discuss their views on what changes should be made to the U.S. Constitution. Talks centered on human rights.

online

USED BOOK DRIVE

Students can donate books at various campus locations today until Dec. 13. The books will go to people in need of them virtually everywhere in the world that receives mail.



city | page 5

15-501 CONSTRUCTION

Work might be finished by Jan. 1 on the crowded intersection of Europa Drive and Erwin Road. The project began July 2006, and those involved disagree on what has caused delays.

this day in history

DEC. 3, 1986 ...

A 15-foot Christmas tree erected by Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity is stolen from the Pit. The tree had been up no more than 12 hours before it was taken.

weather

Partly cloudy
H 52, L 30

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