

CAMPUS BRIEFS

New chief of information technology to start Feb. 1

Larry Conrad will begin his role as UNC's chief information officer and vice chancellor for information technology on Feb. 1. He has left his post as chief information officer at Florida State University to come to Chapel Hill.

Conrad has been involved in meetings this week to learn more about the University's Enterprise Resource Planning initiative, a project that will replace UNC's computer system. The ERP will be under his supervision as he takes on his role at ITS.

Conrad replaces interim CIO John Oberlin, who succeeded Dan Reed.

Reed left the University to take a job at Microsoft Inc. in December.

Five senior habitat house build days still available

Seniors interested in helping to build the senior class Habitat for Humanity house have five more opportunities to participate.

This semester, there are three more days in January and two in February available for students to sign up.

Shifts last from 8:30 a.m. to noon or from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit seniors.unc.edu for more information. To sign up, e-mail Lindsay Mirchin at lmirchin@gmail.com.

Free-range burgers will be sold every week at Lenoir

The Carolina Kitchen will be selling burgers made with grass-fed beef.

Samples of the beef were available on Wednesday at the entrance of Lenoir Dining Hall. The meat came from a local farmer.

Police officer honored for work with Special Olympics

J.D. Parks, an investigative captain with the UNC Department of Public Safety, was honored Tuesday for his involvement with the Special Olympic Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Parks, formerly a detective with the Chapel Hill Police Department, sold T-shirts and hats and hosted numerous events to raise money. He helped to organize a golf tournament with his agency that is now in its 11th year and raises more than \$60,000 annually.

During Parks' 14 years of involvement in the Special Olympics, Chapel Hill police raised more than \$825,000 for Special Olympics athletes. Law enforcement officers from across the state will participate in the Torch Run later this year to raise money for the Special Olympics of North Carolina.

CITY BRIEFS

New traffic pattern at Erwin Road and Europa Drive open

Starting Tuesday, drivers are no longer able to make left turns at the intersection of Erwin Road and Europa Drive. Drivers also can no longer move through the intersection to U.S. 15-501.

The traffic pattern, which is part of the super street project by the N.C. Department of Transportation, is meant to alleviate the congestion problem at the intersection.

Carrboro Farmers Market extends winter season hours

The Carrboro Farmers Market is now open year-around, according to an e-mail sent to the market listserv. The market, at 301 W. Main St., now is open from 9 a.m. to noon until March 8 and has longer hours after that date.

The market decided to extend its hours through the winter because the use of greenhouses and tunnels have lengthened the crop season.

Sarah Blacklin will replace Sheila Neal as the new market manager.

"I look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces as we enter an exciting 2008 season at the Carrboro Farmers Market," Blacklin said in the e-mail.

NATION BRIEFS

Gov. Bill Richardson drops out of presidential race

According to The Associated Press sources, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is planning to announce today that he is no longer running for President of the United States.

Richardson finished fourth in both Iowa and New Hampshire, winning less than 5 percent of the vote in each contest.

Although he was the only Democratic candidate with executive experience, Richardson was consistently outshone by frontrunners Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

— From staff and wire reports

Town gets new money man

IT to link up with finance, budget

BY TED STRONG
SENIOR WRITER

Chapel Hill is revamping its finance department and integrating information technology under a new business management director.

"I took the opportunity to kind of rethink our organization," Town Manager Roger Stancil said.

Stancil said he hopes the change will allow for more integrated and strategic planning and budgeting.

The town's information technology director, Bob Avery, will work for the new director, Ken Pennoyer, but there will be no new finance director.

Pennoyer said he thinks Chapel Hill will have more of the cross-departmental vigor he experienced in Upper Merion Township, Pa., where he worked before his current job as finance director for the city of Durham.

"I think it just kind of clicked with me," he said.

He will miss Durham "terribly," he said, but such a big organization creates certain hurdles.

"You tend to have sort of artificial walls between these different departments, and it takes a lot of effort to get the communication there," he said.

Local activist and former town



Ken Pennoyer will come to Chapel Hill after serving as Durham's finance director.

council candidate Will Raymond said that the move wasn't exactly what he had anticipated but that he thought it could pay dividends.

"I could see maybe how this might work," said Raymond, a former chief information and technical officer who works as a software developer. "This is a great opportunity because there's a lot of work to be done."

Raymond said the idea of a

department with an integrated technological capacity looking at long-term issues is something the town needs badly.

"We're very reactionary," he said.

Stancil also praised the skill Pennoyer had shown in working at another municipality that is AAA rated for bonds. The rating means independent firms have decided that municipal bonds from the town are a good investment.

While Upper Merion, located about 20 miles west of Philadelphia, doesn't have any colleges or universities, it is home to about two-thirds of Valley Forge, the historic site where George Washington made

SEE FINANCES, PAGE 9

Police arrest 3 in cop assault

Car stopped for driving in reverse

BY ANDREW DUNN
SENIOR WRITER

An incident that police said began with a high-risk 180-degree turn ended with a man incarcerated Tuesday night.

Keith Kareem Parks, a 22-year-old Chapel Hill resident, was jailed on misdemeanor charges of assault on a government official and resisting arrest.

Brothers Andre and Antwan Burnette, ages 25 and 23, also were arrested for their part in the incident, which drew more than eight officers to Sunset Drive.

The Burnettes were charged with resisting arrest and disorderly conduct and were released upon signing a written promise to appear in court. All three are scheduled to appear in court April 1.

None of the phone numbers the suspects provided to law enforcement were correct, but police said the incident began when a bike officer spotted a car driving erratically shortly after 5 p.m.

The driver, Andre Burnette, was moving southbound on Graham Street — in reverse and at a "high rate of speed," Chapel Hill Police Department spokesman Lt. Kevin Gunter said.

The bike officer followed the car as it approached a stop sign, at which time the car switched directions and drove down Rosemary Street.

The officer got the car to stop as it reached Sunset Drive, but when he tried to get information, Parks became "extremely uncooperative," according to police reports.

Gunter said the officer then tried to force the driver out of the vehicle, at which time he "became disruptive" and tried to pull away.

Parks, the passenger in the car, then exited the car and began kicking the officer. That action, Gunter said, earned Parks the charge of assault on a government official.

"They clearly wanted to disrupt the officers," Gunter said.

At least eight officers were called to the scene before the dispatcher said no further assistance was needed.

Antwan Burnette became involved when he saw the scuffle with his brother. He ran to the scene from a residence across the street.

Gunter said police did not know why the suspects were uncooperative. He said the Chapel Hill Police Department did not identify any outstanding warrants.

But he did say the department has not researched whether police have had a history of interactions with the trio.

And violent responses are unusual for traffic stops, Gunter said.

"Occasionally we will come across someone who is uncooperative," he said. "This escalated."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

50,000 ENJOY KIDZ MUSEUM

Search continues for a bigger space

BY TRACEY THERET
SENIOR WRITER

Two-year-old Ivan Krivacka from Hillsborough had his first Kidzu Children's Museum experience Wednesday morning.

After an arts and crafts session and pressing different buttons to make Herald — the inflatable dragon — come to life, Ivan played with fire.

"I cooking apples!" he exclaimed to his grandmother, Joan Witt.

He threw a red plastic fruit into a bucket sitting atop the flickering pseudo-flame of an open stove.

"Yes, you are such a good cook," Witt replied with a smile as she helped him turn the handle of the nearby play rotisserie.

After hearing about the museum's popularity, Joan Witt and her husband, Peter, of Chapel Hill, decided to join the museum for the annual family dues of \$75 for when their grandchild comes to town.

"We think it's wonderful," Peter Witt said two hours into the family's visit. "I thought we'd be out of here long ago, but he's engrossed."

"It has been so successful, so we decided to join," Joan Witt said.

In fact, Kidzu celebrated its 50,000th visitor Dec. 21, which Executive Director Cathy Maris said was no small feat for a local museum that opened less than two years ago in March 2006.

"Most new children's museums in their second year of opening see a 30 percent drop in attendance," Maris said.

From the time the museum opened until the end of 2006, the museum saw about 27,000 visitors, Maris said.

"There's been an enthusiastic embrace of the museum from the community," she said.

Peppy Linden, executive director of the Virginia Discovery Museum in Charlottesville, also said that it is "not hard to start a children's museum, but difficult to sustain it."

She attributed diminished inter-

SEE KIDZU, PAGE 9



Peter Witt reads to his grandson Ivan Krivacka, 2, at Kidzu Children's Museum on Wednesday. The museum, which opened on Franklin Street in 2006, recently hosted its 50,000th visitor.

Campus projects progressing

Science complex work continues

BY KATY DOLL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Several major construction projects are still in swing this semester, and a few new projects are underway on campus.

Science construction

"The first phase of Genomics is basically the work you see going on now," said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction.

The Genomics project, also known as the science complex, includes the new Genomics Science Building and a 700-space parking deck on part of the existing Bell Tower lot.

Runberg said the site work and utilities work will be finished this year.

Bidding for the building's contract will begin in coming months,



Extensive construction can still be seen in the Bell Tower Parking Lot, where a 700-space parking deck is projected to be finished by the end of the year.

and the whole project is planned to wrap up in a few years.

"All of that work is going to take probably three years," he said. "So we're going to be busy down there for a while."

The genetics medicine building also is under construction and is set to finish in May.

"That's about a \$120 million project," Runberg said.

"And it's a very critical project for research for the School of Medicine and the School of

Pharmacy."

Botanical garden center

A new Visitor Education Center for the N.C. Botanical Garden at UNC will be built soon.

"The hope is that by middle to late 2009 we'll have a new building that we can use to educate the public about native plants and their beauty and utility," said

SEE CONSTRUCTION, PAGE 9

PlayMakers showcases emotion in '2.5 Minute'

BY ALYSSA GRIFFITH
STAFF WRITER

Lisa Kron's acclaimed performance in "2.5 Minute Ride" blurs the boundaries between pain and comedy.

Kron unveiled her award-winning one-woman show Wednesday for PlayMakers Repertory Company's second-stage series, PRC², at the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre.

The autobiographical show intertwines three separate experiences in Kron's life.

Audience members might find themselves unable to remove their eyes from Kron's smiling eyes and animated features.

Onlookers at Wednesday's performance laughed at Kron's wry and raw language that strayed from the norm. Audience members got a taste of Kron's humor when she referred to all the members of her family as either crippled or dead in the play's opening moments.

THEATER REVIEW

2.5 MINUTE RIDE
PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY
WEDNESDAY



The diversity of topics addressed in "2.5 Minute Ride" accentuated Kron's versatility as an artist. Kron was able to crash together some of the most emotional stories of her life into a raw and emotional performance.

Kron's tumultuous and chaotic tales recount her humorous family vacation to an Ohio amusement park, her brother's wedding and a heartfelt journey to the infamous World War II concentration camp, Auschwitz, with her father.

Kron's interwoven memories demonstrate how grief and humor can occur within brief moments of each other.

Her seemingly disconnected stories are accompanied by few props: a stool, a cigarette and a slide projector that only carries blank slides.

While the slides are empty, the

SEE 2.5 MINUTE, PAGE 9