

CORRECTIONS

Due to a source error, the Wednesday city brief "Warrants issued for teens in connection with break-ins" incorrectly identified the address of Van Patterson, for whom police have issued a warrant. Patterson lives at 302 Simmerville Road. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

Due to an editing error, the Wednesday pg. 3 article "UNC names budget priorities" incorrectly states the timeline for budget priorities to go to the UNC-system Board of Governors. UNC's budget priorities were sent earlier this month. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

Due to an editing error, the Wednesday pg. 3 article "Congress closes fund loophole" incorrectly quotes Student Congress Speaker Tyler Younts. Younts said, "The people that are proponents for it were putting forth a false argument. They said, 'If you're not voting for this fee increase, you're voting against rape victims.'" The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Essay contest to focus on national health care policy

The Kaiser Family Foundation is accepting essays for this year's contest.

The topic is health care, and those interested should draft a letter to the president-elect's health care team about what the priorities should be with a major policy issue for the new administration.

Each student can choose the specific policy to discuss. The contest is open to undergraduates and graduates, and the winner takes a \$1,000 prize.

More information is available at kaiseredu.org/essay/essaycontest2008.asp

Nominate someone for this year's awards for women

The Carolina Women's Center is accepting nominations for this year's University Awards for Women, which focuses on contributions to the advancement of women.

Nominations are open for one faculty member and one staff member, and each of the winners will receive \$5,000. One student also can be selected and would receive \$2,500. Men can also be nominated for the award.

The deadline to submit nominations is 5 p.m. Feb. 27, and forms are available at unc.edu/oira/public/women_nomination.html.

CITY BRIEFS

Chapel Hill police look into five similar car break-ins

Police are investigating five car break-ins that happened between 6:30 p.m. Monday and 10:18 a.m. Tuesday in the Notting Hill Apartment Complex on Drew Hill Lane.

According to police reports, five Hondas were broken into. In each case, a window was pried open and items were stolen from inside.

A car stereo, a car console, an MP3 player, credit cards, two child car seats, radio equipment and cash were among the items reported stolen from the cars, all totalling more than \$1,295, according to reports.

Lt. Kevin Gunter, spokesman for the Chapel Hill Police Department, said police have no leads or subject descriptions at this time.

STATE BRIEFS

N.C. college student found dead on Interstate 540

An N.C. Central University student, 21-year-old Latrese Curtis, was found dead on the side of I-540 on Wednesday morning.

Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison told The News & Observer he had ruled out the possibility of the woman being a hit-and-run victim and is treating the case as a homicide.

Harrison added that a passing motorist notified law enforcement of the body at about 7:30 a.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Williams inducted into 2008 N.C. Sports Hall of Fame class

North Carolina men's basketball coach Roy Williams was inducted into the 2008 class of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

The 2008 honorees include acclaimed football and basketball players and coaches, a multi-championship stock car team owner and former driver, a sports promoter and a major college athletic director.

"Outstanding athletic achievement and high standards of professionalism are hallmarks of these inductees," said Wilt Browning, president of the hall.

"They have brought honor and prestige to themselves, their sports and the state of North Carolina. Their achievements have brightened the sports heritage of our state."

—From staff and wire reports

Blue book policy may change

Student, UNC leaders talking

BY LINDSAY RUEBENS
STAFF WRITER

In response to student concern, campus leaders are trying to work out a plan to incorporate the cost of blue books into individual academic department budgets.

On Wednesday, student officials brainstormed ways to address the issue of obtaining testing materials.

This semester, Student Stores started charging 15 cents per blue book and 8 cents per scantron, causing some student complaint.

While prices are minimal, having to pay for testing materials can present a hassle for busy students.

"What we see as a greater issue of concern is the actual congestion that may occur right before exams when students are rushing to buy blue books," said Mike Tarrant, stu-

dent body vice president.

"The bigger issue at stake is really the inconvenience for students."

Student Body President Eve Carson said she sent a letter to Provost Bernadette Gray-Little requesting that the testing materials be part of departmental budgets. Carson asked that it be forwarded to financial managers of individual schools.

Tim Nichols, Student Congress speaker pro tem, said he plans to write a resolution for Congress.

Student leaders said they expect to hear from Gray-Little and Congress within the next two weeks.

The store started charging students because it has been losing money on the materials, said John Jones, director of Student Stores. The prices are based on actual cost of blue books and scantrons.

"I think the store needed to start charging for them because you have to remember that the store makes no money from sales, there's no

"We don't want it to be a cost and a hassle for (students) to wait in long lines to purchase testing material."

MIKE TARRANT, STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT

state funding," Jones said. "By law, all earnings go to scholarships."

Sophomore Wesley Scery said he thinks departmental distribution would solve the problem.

"I don't think we should be charged," he said. "We pay enough tuition as it is, and if they're charging us to take tests, that's ridiculous."

Some departments already have been buying testing materials from the store, such as the Economics Department, which bought 15,000 scantrons, Jones said.

Student Body Treasurer Jordan Myers said that if testing materials are purchased by the departments, the costs would be covered in tuition, adding that testing

material costs have been absorbed formerly by Student Stores.

To prepare for exam time, Jones said he plans to keep all cash registers staffed to facilitate buying — which would still cost the store money in terms of employee salary.

"We're also going to market blue books to incoming first-year students through the book pre-order program since we know a lot of blue books are used in introductory courses," Jones said.

Unless the system changes, Jones said students should buy materials now to avoid crowds later.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



Mandy Carter, a Durham resident and member of the Durham Democratic Women, tries to convince undecided voters to support Hillary Clinton on Wednesday at the Durham Democratic Women's Raucous Caucus at the main branch of the Durham Public Library.

'RAUCOUS CAUCUS'

Obama wins Durham support in mock vote

BY OLIVIA BOWLER
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM—Enthusiastic Durham residents crowded into a small room in a public library Wednesday night for the "Raucous Caucus." The nearly 80 attendees enjoyed cookies and apple cider while discussing the merits of each of the remaining Democratic nominees.

The event was sponsored by the Durham County Democratic Women. The organization invited residents to share their opinions and knowledge about the Democratic nominees.

Diana Palmer, first vice chairwoman for the Durham County Democratic Party, said the mock caucus was an opportunity for people to come out and be heard.

"It's to give people in Durham a chance to have their preferences known, since the N.C. primary isn't until May," she said.

The caucus was set up Iowa-style, which meant that each corner of a room was dedicated to a certain candidate's supporters,

including a corner for undecided voters.

The evening began with one-on-one discussion among the event attendees. With John Edwards out of the running as of Wednesday, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and Mike Gravel supporters came together to try to convince one another of their candidate's merits.

"It looks like chaos, but it's not," said Katy Munger, president of Durham Democratic Women. "I think it's great that this many people really cared enough to be here and make a thoughtful decision."

Lynette Hartsell, an Orange County resident, said she is an avid Clinton supporter. "I believe she is the most powerful woman to rise in our time," she said. "I hope to convince everyone here tonight to vote for her."

But Alex Phillips, a senior at Jordan High School in Durham and a member of the Jordan High School Democrats Club, said he's putting his faith in Obama.

"This general election is going to make or break America," he announced to the room.

"This is a time for us to step up."

Phillips said he likes Obama's straightforwardness and education platform but encouraged the group to find out for themselves.

"It's your responsibility as voters to be educated and to find out about these platforms and what it means to you," he said.

In the end, Gravel did not have the support of 15 percent of the Durham caucus-goers, so the race came down to Clinton and Obama.

Munger said that if neither candidate pulls ahead on Super Tuesday, the primary in North Carolina might make a difference. "It could very well come down to our state."

Judging from the night's results, if the Democrats present at the Raucous Caucus have anything to do with it, Obama will run away with the N.C. primary. He won 56 percent of the vote to Clinton's 26.8 percent.

"It's to bring people together and get them excited," Munger said. "Rather than accepting what the media tells us about the candidates, we're here to make up our own minds."

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

Development ban ends today

BY ROSE ANNA LAUDICINA
STAFF WRITER

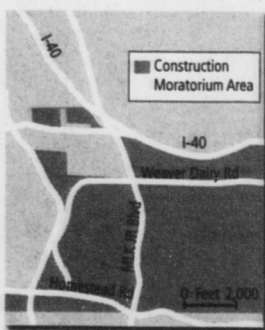
Construction applications will again be reviewed as the growth moratorium on development in Chapel Hill's northern area expires today.

While some were in favor of extending the moratorium, the Chapel Hill Town Council, aided by the recommendations of the town manager and town planner, decided against extending the moratorium's expiration date.

"I think people were generally pleased with what happened during the period and understood the difficulties in extending it any longer," said council member Mark Kleinschmidt, who was in favor of letting the moratorium expire.

By letting the growth halt expire, developers and businesses whose expansion plans were put on hold will now have the chance to start construction, something many have been eager to do.

"We are very excited about it," Charles Wilson, CEO of Triangle Orthopedics said about the moratorium expiring. "We are going to



SOURCE: WWW.TOWNOFCHAPELHILL.ORG
DTH/ALLIE WASSUM

proceed with the 10 million square-foot building we were planning to build before it was in place."

Wilson said officials were disappointed when the moratorium was set because the company had outgrown its current facility and wanted to expand but weren't able to do so.

The temporary moratorium was put in place last May at the request of local residents concerned with the developmental direction of

the town. The Northern Area Task Force then came up with a set of guidelines to direct growth.

"To me, it was a wonderful example of how a group of concerned citizens with wonderful energy and extraordinary ability came together and said we need to look at this," council member Matt Czajkowski said, adding that he believes the task force came up with a comprehensive plan.

Del Snow, the chairwoman of the task force, said she expects a rush to develop in the area, while Town Manager Roger Stancil said he doesn't expect one.

The guidelines ask that new construction projects have appealing architecture and emphasize a desire for businesses to be accessed by foot, bike or public transportation.

Snow said she hopes the guidelines will help to create an atmosphere in the northern area of Chapel Hill similar to that of the Weaver Street area in Carrboro.

Although Snow had a hand

SEE MORATORIUM, PAGE 6

Improv Comedy Jam gives everyone a stage

BY JESS THOM
SENIOR WRITER

Dirty South Improv doesn't care today if you've never done improvisation comedy. In fact, the less experience you have, the better.

At 8 p.m. DSI will kick off its second Improv Comedy Jam, an open event that brings improvisation artists from across the state to Carrboro, and also allows anyone who shows up the chance to try their hand at sporadic sketch routines.

The Jam was hosted for the first time in 2006, and this year it will precede DSI's Improv Festival, which begins Feb. 19 and is the largest of its kind in the country.

"DSI has tried to bring all these North Carolina groups to get people hyped-up and realize that they don't have to go to L.A., they don't have to go to Chicago — they can drive five minutes and see improv," said Zach Ward, owner and executive producer of DSI.

In addition to members from Chapel Hill Players and DSI, groups

Senate seeking tuition answers

Wants details of university funds

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

With UNC officials still savoring the success of a \$2.38 billion fundraising campaign, federal lawmakers are taking a critical look at some of the country's largest university endowments.

A total of 136 campuses nationwide have endowments valued at a half-billion dollars or more, and the Senate Finance Committee has requested detailed information about the way each school uses those funds.

Specifically, senators want to know why tuition has continued to rise even as the nation's top universities have grown steadily wealthier.

"There are a lot of concerns over the cost of higher education, particularly at private universities," said Dick Mann, UNC vice chancellor for finance and administration. "Places like Carolina and other public universities I really think are not the focus of this."

Nonetheless, UNC officials have until the end of February to draft a response, and Mann is already working with others in the finance and financial aid departments to collect information.

While an overall endowment of more than \$2 billion puts UNC squarely in the top tier of public universities, it is dwarfed by some of the largest private funds.

Harvard University, at the top of the list, had more than \$34 billion in its endowment as of June 2007, with Yale taking the second spot with more than \$22 billion.

The purpose of an endowment, Mann explained, is to accumulate enough funding to create sizable investment returns. Those market returns are used to fund scholarships, professorships and other programs.

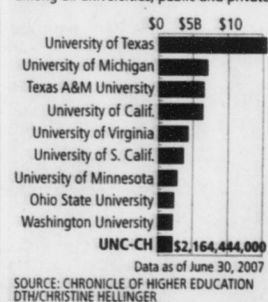
"The intent is to maintain a steady stream of income," Mann said. "You want to be in a position where you're meeting your budget every year but also not eroding your endowment."

Far from eroding, many of the nation's largest university endowments have been expanding rapidly. Lawmakers want to know how that money is benefiting students, and specifically how it is being used to expand financial aid.

SEE ENDOWMENT, PAGE 6

Top endowments

Endowment market value of the richest public universities. UNC is ranked 30th among all universities, public and private.



ATTEND THE COMEDY JAM

Time: 8 p.m. today
Location: DSI Comedy Theater, 200 N. Greensboro St.
Info: www.dsicomedytheater.com

from cities across the state will attend the event, creating the potential for about 150 improvisers to perform.

"The format is up to the people who come out," said Ward. "I have a skeleton structure planned out, but a lot of people have e-mailed me and made suggestions."

The Jam will consist of both long- and short-form improvisation. Short-form improvisation resembles the popular sketch comedy TV show "Whose Line is it Anyway," while long-form involves a narrative and more complex story lines.

During the Jam, groups of five or six people improvise for up to 10 minutes and create a group of scenes that resembles a one-act comedy.

SEE COMEDY, PAGE 6