

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

**Education dean candidate to visit UNC, two more to come**

The first of three candidates for the position of dean of the School of Education will be on campus today for an interview and open forum.

Bill McDiarmid from the University of Washington will have an open forum at 3 p.m. in Carroll Hall, room 305.

Leonard Abbeduto from the University of Wisconsin-Madison will interview Tuesday.

Jonathan Plucker from Indiana University will interview Thursday.

The new dean should be announced by the end of the semester.

Former dean of the school Tom James left to begin an administrative position at Columbia University.

**Study finds Epsom salt cuts down risk of cerebral palsy**

A new study by UNC researchers shows that giving pregnant women at risk for premature delivery an infusion of magnesium sulfate decreases the occurrence of cerebral palsy in their children by half.

Magnesium sulfate is generally known as Epsom salt, a common component of bath salt.

Epsom salt is often used for other medicinal purposes in pregnant women, said Dr. John Thorp, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and co-author of the study.

This means there is an inexpensive and widely available treatment that will cut the risk of the disorder in half, Thorp said.

The study was conducted at 20 sites across the country, including UNC Hospitals.

**UNC dentists provide free care for local children today**

Faculty and residents from UNC's School of Dentistry will provide free dental care to children in Durham and Greensboro today.

This is part of "Give Kids a Smile" day, a national children's dental access day.

The department of pediatric dentistry will give free dental screenings, preventative care and restorative treatments.

Doctors will be available at the Durham County Health Department at 414 E. Main St. and the Gateway Education Center at 3205 E. Wendover Ave., Greensboro in the morning.

**UNC forms transfer honor society, sends invitations**

UNC became the first higher education institution in the state to form a chapter of Tau Sigma, the national honor society for transfer students.

The chapter opened this month, inviting 346 transfer students to join. UNC admits about 800 transfer students every year.

## CITY BRIEFS

**Residents updated on state of county water supplies**

About 20 Orange County residents gathered Thursday to take part in an event hosted by a coalition of county Democratic party groups called, "Water and growth: Can we have both?"

Residents were given the opportunity to hear an update on the county's water supply and quiz local water experts, though they received some disheartening projections. Experts said the current drought might expand into a 10-year event.

Visit [www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com) for the full story.

**Sapikowski to plead guilty in court appearance today**

Adam Sapikowski, charged with two counts of second-degree murder for the 2005 slaying of his parents, is scheduled to appear in Orange County Superior Court in Hillsborough at 2 p.m. today.

## STATE BRIEFS

**Durham sixth annual MLK Day parade to be held Sat.**

The city of Durham will hold its Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade Saturday as inclement weather forced organizers to reschedule from the previous Jan. 19 date.

N.C. State Rep. Larry D. Hall will serve as grand marshal for the parade, which will honor Black History Month.

This year the parade will reflect a 1954 King sermon, "Rediscovering Lost Values," in which he talked about righting fundamental world wrongs.

The parade will leave Heritage Square Shopping Center at noon and proceed down Fayetteville Street and end at Elmira Avenue.

— From staff and wire reports

# Rat relics to be auctioned

Financial problems close Rathskeller

BY MAX ROSE  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The lines on football days for The Ramshead Rathskeller used to reach to the Chapel Hill post office.

But long after the lines died down and just before its 60th birthday, the downtown restaurant might have seen its last season.

Everything that belongs to "the Rat" is scheduled to be auctioned off Saturday after the restaurant failed to pay withholding taxes.

Unless the taxes are paid by the 10 a.m. auction, one of Chapel Hill's original restaurants will lose decades of collections and thousands of dollars of equipment.

The Rathskeller shut its doors in December to deal with the tax situation. As of Thursday, a flier in the window still advertised a weekly two-for-one hamburger

special.

Several unsuspecting alumni and students missed the no trespassing signs as they went to get a pregame meal.

UNC alumni Steve and Sharon LaFavers said they left their Goldsboro home hours early to eat dinner at the restaurant before going to the Smith Center.

Steve LaFavers, class of 1965, said he and his fraternity brothers would eat there two or three times a week.

"There's nothing else around like it," he said. "It's like eating in a hole."

Growing up, Sutton's Drug Store manager Don Pinney went to the Rathskeller with his dad every Friday night, he said.

They ordered "the Gambler" or the lasagna and enjoyed the people, he said.

"That's what made the Rat, was

the people that were there, not so much the food," Pinney said.

Ken Jackson, the owner of Wentworth & Sloan Jewelers, co-owned the Rat for three years.

He took his first date to dinner at the Rat in 1968, Jackson said.

"It's part of our heritage and our history," he said. "It is truly a landmark for the downtown area."

The recent financial problems aren't the first the Rathskeller has dealt with.

It temporarily closed in 1999 and has changed ownership several times.

The Rathskeller once served more than 100,000 people each year, but business has slowed as more restaurants opened downtown, Jackson said.

"It truly is a sad day," he said. "When you look at the overall business climate in the downtown area, it truly is a nail in the coffin."

Kenny Mann Jr., whose dad was head chef for more than 50 years,

## ATTEND THE AUCTION

Time: 10 a.m. Saturday  
Location: 157 E. Franklin St.  
Info: [www.classicauctions.com](http://www.classicauctions.com)

said that original pictures of his band, Liquid Pleasure, are among the items which will be auctioned. Mann said he cried when he learned the Rathskeller would be closing.

People interested in bidding on the Rat's collection can come and register for the auction, said Lisa Corser, a levy officer with the N.C. Department of Revenue.

Items on the auction block at the restaurant range from bottles of beer to signed UNC memorabilia.

Classic Auctions will sell the items piece by piece, Corser said.

Staff writer Sara Harris contributed reporting. Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

*"Spreading awareness is one of our biggest goals this year. We are here as a resource."* AMY BUGNO, UNC RELAY FOR LIFE CHAIRWOMAN



Junior Andrea Baxter receives information about Relay for Life from junior Cassie Smith (right). "This year is a lot bigger than our normal kickoff — people are a lot more aware of us now that we've got more going on," said Smith, a longtime volunteer for Relay for Life.

## KICK OFF FOR FIGHTING CANCER

Relay for Life gears up for March fundraiser

BY MEGAN HANNAY  
STAFF WRITER

Tom Green, Elizabeth Taylor and Sheryl Crow all have something in common — and it has nothing to do with famous breakups. The three celebrities are all cancer survivors.

UNC's Relay for Life shared that and other trivia this week in the Pit to promote its cancer-fighting event later this semester.

The group has been in the Pit displaying information and games, such as Twister and Nintendo Wii, to catch students' attention.

"Spreading awareness is one of our biggest

goals this year," Event Chairwoman Amy Bugno said. "We are here as a resource."

Relay for Life is a nationwide 20-hour event that will be held from March 28 to March 29 on Fetzer Field. The individual relays can occur at different times throughout the spring, and they all fund the American Cancer Society.

The relay includes teams of students and community members bringing in donations. At least one member of each team must be walking the track at all times throughout the relay.

"Last year we had 123 teams and around 2,500 participants," said senior Mark Shifflet, Relay for Life event committee co-chairman.

"This year's goal is 200 teams."

So far, about 75 teams have registered.

All Relay for Life earnings go toward cancer research and patient care in the community. Besides fundraising, Relay for Life seeks to become a resource for students and community members affected by cancer. The group will focus on cervical cancer in February, skin cancer in March and men's cancers in April.

The group planned a bar night at W.B. Yeats on Thursday, with proceeds going to Relay for Life.

Relay for Life held a mock luminary ceremony in the Pit Wednesday, with survivor or victims' names on white bags with candles.

"We wanted to show people a little taste of

SEE RELAY, PAGE 5

## Town marks racial injustice

Recognition for freedom riders

BY ARIEL ZIRULNICK  
SENIOR WRITER

Cases of racial injustice still resonate today, even in liberal strongholds like Chapel Hill.

However, the Chapel Hill Town Council's unanimous support for a historical marker recognizing local bus integration efforts is intended to take the town one step further from its racially contentious past.

The council heard a petition Monday night asking for support for a proposal to erect a state-sponsored historical marker to recognize 1947 freedom riders.

"I've tried to expose the history of segregation, slavery, white supremacy ... and at the same time retrieve the history of how our African-Americans have struggled for freedom and for economic, social and political advancement," said Yonni Chapman, chairman of the local NAACP Historical Commission.

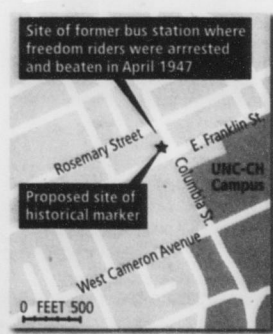
The freedom riders were interracial groups of civil rights activists who rode buses through the South to test the enforcement of the 1946 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that state segregation rules were not applicable to interstate bus travel.

"(The marker) reminds people today that it requires struggle to stand up for the principles you believe in," Chapman said.

A group of riders left Washington, D.C., on April 9, stopping in North Carolina towns along the way before arriving in Chapel Hill. Here the riders encountered violent opposition, Chapman said.

Their arrival was uneventful, but Chapel Hill police officers arrested four riders as they took their seats the next morning, and a fifth was assaulted by a nearby cab driver, Chapman said.

"When it comes to Chapel Hill, a college town where I would have thought it was the safest for them ... they were beat up," said Lori Hoyt, co-chairwoman of the Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist's Charles M. Jones



SOURCE: TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
DTH/REBECCA ROLFE

Peace and Justice Committee.

Local Presbyterian leader the Rev. Charles Jones took the five men to his home at the church manse that night. His support for the activists launched a slew of threats directed at Jones and his family, who left town for their safety soon after the incident.

The four who were arrested

SEE FREEDOM RIDERS, PAGE 5

## Student's debut play allows evolving script

BY SETH WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

An eavesdropping, wife-swapping, blackmailing comedy extravaganza will begin to unfold on campus tonight.

"Blackmail," a play presented by the UNC Playwriting Studio, will debut at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre. The play is the first comedy written by junior Russell Johnson.

"Blackmail" is set in 1940s New York and focuses on a mailman who routinely reads a wealthy couple's personal mail. Hilarity ensues when the mailman finds that the couple has engaged in wife swapping.

Johnson, who is a member of the student improv group Chapel Hill Players, said writing his own play allowed him to invest more in his characters than he does in sketch comedy.

"It's very different from some of the plays that have been done on campus," he said.

And because Johnson's play is

## ATTEND 'BLACKMAIL'

Time: Various times, today to Feb. 5  
Location: Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre  
Info: [drama.unc.edu](mailto:drama.unc.edu)

an original production, actors have been able to put their own influences into the script.

"The cast has been spectacular," said senior Ike Smith, who directed the production. "It has been really fun seeing the scripts evolve, and the cast has been a big part of that."

Many of the actors featured in the play are also members of Chapel Hill Players.

Alex Whittington, who plays Danny, the mailman, said there are a few asides and additions that he has made to the character.

"The life of the actors has brought some more comedy to an already funny script," he said.

SEE BLACKMAIL, PAGE 5

## FEMA trailers draw inquiry

Congress probes chemical usage

BY JAKE RATLIFF  
STAFF WRITER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is under fire once again for its post-Katrina conduct, facing a congressional inquiry into its health inspections of formaldehyde-laden trailers provided to hurricane victims.

The latest round of inspections is scheduled to be completed in February, but a subcommittee led by U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, D-N.C., has expressed distrust in FEMA, charging that the agency "ignored, hid and manipulated" reports that raised concerns about the negative effects of long-term exposure to the toxic chemical.

"It looks like those agencies have a lot of explaining to do," Miller said.

Formaldehyde, a preservative used in the particle board of the trailers' interior, is considered a carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Thousands of trailer occupants have reported negative health effects from exposure to the toxin, including nosebleeds, bronchitis and sinus troubles.

"Any time we have to turn the heat on, everyone wakes up with headaches," said Lindsay Huckabee, who lives in a FEMA trailer in Kiln, Miss.

Huckabee said four of her five children have been hospitalized because of the poor air quality inside her trailer.

Miller's subcommittee, part of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology, has requested that FEMA release all documents and e-mails relating to the health inspections by Feb. 15.

The committee's letters stated that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry — an office of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — complied with FEMA in omitting negative reviews and thus "stands discredited."

"I would like to see that every agency responsible for scientific research does so in an honest, dispassionate way," Miller said.

He said a CDC worker exposed the alleged cover-up.

"The total picture is one of FEMA being more concerned about public embarrassment and legal liability than the health of people exposed to toxic substances," Miller said.

In a press release issued Monday, FEMA officials stated that the agency did not "suppress or inappropriately influence" any reports on the trailers.

The Sierra Club's Mississippi chapter conducted an independent study of the FEMA trailers, finding that 88 percent of the temporary housing in that state alone had excessive formaldehyde levels.

Becky Gillette, former co-chairwoman of the Sierra Club's Mississippi chapter, said many of the trailer occupants have serious health problems and face medical bills totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Some people wake up in the

SEE TRAILERS, PAGE 5