BY JONATHAN CROOK

The North Carolina men's and women's fencing teams traveled this weekend to Durham for the Duke Duals Meet to take on some of the nation's best in preparation for the upcoming NCAA tournament.

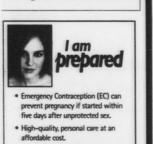
The men's team (28-10) compet-ed Friday, taking down Brandeis, Johns Hopkins, M.I.T. and Air Force. The team's only loss on the day came in dramatic fashion to archrival Duke 14-13, as the Blue Devils pulled out the victory on the final touch of the bout.

On Saturday it was the wom-en's turn to show off their skills. The Tar Heels (25-10) defeated Duke, Brandeis and M.I.T. handily but fell to Temple 21-6 in a bout uncharacteristic of the level of play the team had exhibited during the

rest of the meet. "We each, men and women, had one minor letdown," coach Ron Miller said. "The men finished well against Duke but obviously not well nough to win. The women did not finish well at all against Temple. But the rest of the day, and actually the last two weekends, they've been outstanding."

The women's victory earned UNC another Carlyle Cup point, pushing the Tar Heels to an 11-3 lead over the Blue Devils in the 2007-08 season.

The weekend was the only competition of the season where all of the players from both teams were able to travel together and attend the bouts.



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Brandow finished 9-3 this weekend at the Duke **Duals Meet in** Durham.

With the NCAA Tournament approaching, Miller said he thinks his teams are more prepared to take on the competition.

"The biggest difference is that in the fall, we had a lot of freshmen starting without good returning leadership on the team," he said. "We had four key starters either studying abroad or ineligible for various reasons. Now that we've got virtually everyone back, it makes a huge difference."

Because of strong play from both teams, some of those goals have been met and surpassed already. Miller said two of UNC's main goals this year were to have more than 20 wins and to have each starter and first alternate qualify for the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We've accomplished both of those, so that was a good result."

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GRAHAM

high school students are dropping

There aren't courses being offered that they're interested in, or a way and a means to engage in a career path that they have an interest in.

We've gotten away from teaching skills and trades as occupations. We're trying to force everybody down a collegiate corridor, for lack of a better word. And folks are not alike. You can't put everyone in the same mold.

Would we like everyone to get a college degree? That would be fantastic. But we're still going to have to have a service economy. We're still going to have to have some manufacturing. We're still going to have to have a lot of computer skills. We're still going to need to know how to build homes, office buildings and a lot of other things that our economy depends on. We've got to get our dropout rate down.

DTH: In North Carolina there's solid health care in the metropolitan areas, but it's lacking in rural areas, and everywhere it's expensive. What should be done?

Graham: Those in rural communities tend to have a greater uninsured population. ... Insurance is about the spreading of risks. And right now the risk is not spread properly - we have 1.3 to (1.4) million citizens in our state who don't have any health insurance.

So what happens to those people? They don't go to the doctor; they vait until they have an emerge They show up at the ER at the last minute, and they basically are in a triage situation. You've got to then put the pieces back together.

Well, if they're in a rural hospital that is not set up for a lot of the types of cases that you see in an

urban area, you've got a problem. But basically one of the snazzy things, I think, that I particularly like, is you give insurance to those people that are underserved. We can do things like spread out the deductible over the entire policy rather than have them pay it all at one time.
One of the things that I say

when I go out to talk to people is: "Name me two areas of health care where prices have gone down and services have gone up." I'll answer the question. It's cosmetic surgery and LASIK surgery; now name two where government insurance typically doesn't play - the same two.

That's proof that free markets work. I'm not for a universal health care system. I lived in Europe, and I'm going to tell you what, that would be a train wreck.

> Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu. people unsatisfied in terms of

IRON & WINE

time between 6 and 8 a.m."

Almost 40 students camped out overnight to purchase seats to se 2006 Homecoming concert with The Roots. Last spring all 900 student tickets for Ben Folds sold out in less than two hours after many pitched tents in front of Memorial Hall for more than 20 hours.

Tom Allin, CUAB music committee chairman, said that despite the new policy, he is confident Iron & Wine will see a sold-out crowd. "(Iron & Wine) is the type of

band that's known and admired in lots of different circles," Allin said. "I can't think of how many times I've been on friend's com-puters and seen their music on their iTunes.

Collaboration with Cat's Cradle allows CUAB to host marquee acts for a fraction of the price — bring-ing Iron & Wine will cost the stu-

dent organization \$11,700.

And while Allin said the setting for Iron & Wine would ideally be a small, intimate venue, Memorial Hall is the best option to host the group because of popular interest.

"Any smaller venue would leave



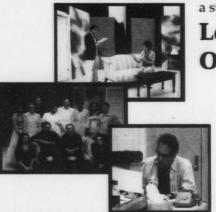
COURTESY OF EMILY WILSON/SUB POP RECORD Sam Beam of folk-rock act Iron & Wine will perform April 15 at UNC. Tickets will be available for students starting Feb. 21.

capacity," Allin said.

Their new album is something that's intricate but kind of complex and mature enough that it really can fill a space like Memorial."

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~ Lewis Black

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