

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Chancellor search committee meets, closes doors to public

The search committee to find UNC's next chancellor had its second meeting of the semester Thursday. For about three hours, the committee met to discuss potential candidates for the position. Before going into closed session, Bill Funk — head consultant for R. William Funk & Associates, which is helping the search committee review candidates — reported to the committee that the pool of applicants is diverse and possibly the best he has seen in five years for a position such as UNC's chancellor opening. "I think we're exactly where we'd hoped we'd be, and I think we have a great pool," he said. The committee next meets Feb. 28.

Carolina Club reopens after fire for Valentine's dinner

The Carolina Club, which has been closed since a fire Monday night, reopened Thursday for a special Valentine's dinner. After investigating the fire, UNC fire officials said an electrical problem started the fire, and grease on a stove fed the flames. This was the first fire the club has seen since the George Watts Hill Alumni Center opened in 1993. The fire caused about \$25,000 worth of damage, according to a press release.

UNC to host youth health and fitness fair on Sunday

In recognition of National Girls and Women in Sports Day on Sunday, UNC Athletics and UNC Family Medicine are hosting a youth health and fitness fair. The fair aims to promote healthy eating and living for youths, but it is open to all. Activities will be held at 11 a.m. in Woollen Gym.

Durham to host casting call for MTV's 'The Real World'

Casting directors from Bunim/Murray Productions will hold an open casting call for MTV's series "The Real World" from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Shooters II on W. Morgan Street in Durham. The reality show, in its 21st season, focuses on seven strangers who live and work together for five months. Applicants must be between 18 and 24 to apply and are asked to bring a recent picture of themselves and a photo identification to the casting call. For more information, visit www.bunim-murray.com.

Free HIV testing is available to students today in Union

A number of organizations are sponsoring free, confidential walk-in HIV testing today in the Student Union. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in room 3411, and the testing will last until 5 p.m. For Sexual Responsibility Week, Project STYLE, Campus Health Services; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender-Straight Alliance; LifeAIDS; the Department of Housing and Residential Education; and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Center are co-sponsoring the event. Half of all new infections in the United States occur in people 25 years old or younger, and in 2003 4,364 people between the ages of 15 and 24 were infected with HIV or AIDS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CITY BRIEFS

OWASA to decide on water restrictions at next meeting

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority will wait to decide on Stage Three water restrictions until its Feb. 28 meeting. At the OWASA Board of Directors Thursday meeting, planning director Ed Holland proposed implementing Stage Three water shortage restrictions if water levels are still below 45 percent at the next meeting. Even after this week's rain, water levels are at 40 percent of their full capacity. Stage Three restrictions include limiting water uses such as laundry, gardens, toilet flushing, car washing, lawn watering and dog washing. Visit www.dailytarheel.com for the full story.

Candidate files for Orange County Board of Education

One more candidate filed for a seat on the Orange County Board of Education on Thursday. Tony McKnight, of Hillsborough, who serves on the Orange County Economic Development Commission, ran for the school board in 2006. There are three open seats on the board. So far, only Stephen Halkiotis, a former county commissioner, has filed. All candidates have until Feb. 29 to file.

— From staff and wire reports

Bowles' role unique in search

System president has strong UNC ties

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

Erskine Bowles is not a member of UNC's chancellor search committee. But long-standing ties to UNC-Chapel Hill could give the UNC-system president key influence in selecting the University's next chancellor. The chairman of UNC's search committee, University trustee Nelson Schwab, is a longtime friend of Bowles. The two cofounded Carousel Capital, a major investment firm based in Charlotte, in 1996. Schwab remains the managing director of Carousel, and Bowles continues to serve as a senior adviser to the firm. That puts the two in regular contact. "He's one of my closest friends," Bowles said of Schwab. "I've asked Nelson a few times how the search is going." And so far, Bowles said, he has been impressed with the candidates being considered. During an interview last week, he said the current list includes both internal and external candidates. "I think the search committee has been very receptive to what I said I would consider," Bowles said. As system president, Bowles has the power to interview and choose from three nominees chosen by the committee; he has said his involvement will not go beyond that role. "I shouldn't have any involvement in it until it comes to me," he said, describing his discussions with committee members as "cursory." But John Sanders, a professor emeritus in the School of Government who has been a close observer of past searches, said it is common for the president to remain involved from the early stages.

"There has been, in the past, at least some communication between the search committee and the president as the search has been going on," Sanders said. "I would be astonished if there were not some discussions between them." In addition to his friendship with Schwab, Bowles has a lengthy personal history in Chapel Hill. He graduated from UNC in 1967 before earning his MBA at Columbia University. His father, Skipper Bowles, was a prominent fundraiser for the University, as well as a trustee. His service to UNC was so highly regarded that the South Campus road near the Smith Center is named for him. Whether that has heightened Bowles' interest in the chancellor search is difficult to gauge. "It's something he holds very close," said Jeff Davies, Bowles' chief of staff. Davies, like many UNC-system officials, said there is a palpable sense of excitement about the search.



UNC-system president Erskine Bowles will narrow the chancellor field down to one.

There is an almost universal expectation that the University's prestige will draw a top-notch applicant pool. "Can you imagine?" Davies said, smiling at the thought. "We're talking about the cream of the crop in higher education." Given those high expectations, Bowles could have the toughest job of anyone in the search process. It will be up to him to turn down two of the committee's three nominees. "I expect those three candidates will meet the criteria I set out, and if they do, I'll have a hard time picking the best among them."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

"It brings in more community members and makes them aware that we have healthy animals here who are looking for homes." SARAH FALLIN, ANIMAL SHELTER VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR



Chip, a German Shepherd mix, looks out from behind his cage at the Orange County Animal Shelter on Thursday. The shelter, located in Durham, held a Valentine's Day party for prospective pet owners to meet and greet stray dogs and cats that are up for adoption.

PUPPY LOVE

Shelter hosts Valentine's Day promotional party

BY ROBERT C. GUNST JR.
STAFF WRITER

With eager eyes, Petunia gazed from behind the steel cage door of a cold and pungent cell at two people with caring hearts. Josh MacNayre and Katie Grossman, a Chapel Hill couple, took the chocolate-brown pit bull from the confines of the Orange County Animal Shelter to a new home Thursday morning. "I just didn't want to see another puppy get put down," MacNayre said. The shelter hosted a Valentine's Day party for prospective pet owners to enjoy food and refreshment while visiting with rescued dogs and cats who were up for adoption. "It brings in more community members and makes them aware that we have healthy animals here who are looking for homes," said Sarah Fallin, volunteer director at the shelter.

The shelter currently has 34 dogs and 29 cats up for adoption, said Thom Freeman, a statistician at the shelter. The Valentine's Day party is not the only event that the shelter hosts to try to promote the adoption of stray animals. The shelter hosted an open house in December and brought people out to generate support for adoption. Volunteers at the shelter participated in Home for the Holidays for nine weeks from November to January to advertise the shelter and encourage pet-lovers to adopt instead of purchasing pets at retail venues, Fallin said. "I don't support puppy mills because there are too many strays," Grossman said. Fallin said strays are given a seven-day period to be reclaimed by their owners, which is two days longer than the state law requires.

VISIT THE ANIMAL SHELTER

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday
Location: PetSmart, 3615 Witherspoon Blvd. Durham
Hosted by: Orange County Animal Shelter

After this period strays are then placed on the adoption level, where they receive care and two meals a day, Fallin said. Last month nearly 34 percent of the animals at the shelter were euthanized, compared to about 41 percent in all of 2007. The other 66 percent of the animals were adopted, reclaimed or transferred to a different shelter. "We don't have a magic number of days that an animal can stay here," Fallin said. "It really depends on the animal's health, the amount of space we have and other variables."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Smith calls for spending curb

Fred Smith is an N.C. senator from Johnston county. He is running for the Republican nomination for governor. Assistant State & National Editor Devin Rooney sat down with Smith in Smithfield.

DTH: Why did you choose to run?
Smith: I think we need a change in management in Raleigh. If you look at our out-of-control spending ... if you look at our road failures ... we have not dealt with the illegal immigration problem; if you look at the lack of medical liability reform, if you look at the corruption, and the many people going to jail, if you look at all that, we need to give the people another choice. We need to give them a choice from bigger and more intrusive government to a belief that people matter. The private sector creates 83 percent of our jobs, and we need to try to make them as strong as possible.
DTH: Why do you think you're the best candidate?

Smith: Well, I think that I bring both experience and I've been tested. I've worked in the private sector, in the public sector. I've worked in small businesses and large businesses, and I think that I have learned and been successful at struggle. I know what it's like to make a paycheck. I understand how the economy works; I understand also how government works. ... Some candidates have never done anything but be involved in government.
DTH: What do you think of the job North Carolina is doing serving its students?
Smith: What do you think about an education system that's losing one-third of our kids to dropout? I don't think that's getting the job done. In business, if I were losing a third of my customers, I would try to have a new plan. When you lose a third of our kids to dropout, that's a statistic, but that's a lot of lives ... that are going to be facing ignorance, a life of ignorance, a life of poverty and a life of potential crime. That's not good for society, and that's not good for those students or people, and we've got to do all we can to try to save them.



N.C. Sen. Fred Smith, R-Johnston, speaks at a stop on his statewide barbecue tour. For the full Q & A visit dailytarheel.com.

Make (traditional schools) the best we can, we need to do that. That's going to meet the needs of about 60 percent of our students. But there's another group that we need to meet their needs, and I think that's vocational education.

SEE SMITH, PAGE 7

Power comedian brings humor education home

BY PHILLIP CROOK
STAFF WRITER

Take CNN, dress it in a black blazer, add expletives and you've got UNC alumnus and comedian Lewis Black. Noted for his "Back in Black" segment on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," Black is the name power and motivation behind the Carolina Comedy Festival, which kicked off its fifth year Thursday with a student stand-up competition. Presented by Carolina Union Activities Board, the festival has evolved under Black's inspiration into a weekend-long series of performances, workshops and seminars that allows students to explore comedy in unconventional ways, said Mallory Cash, CUAB's comedy committee chairwoman. In her second year as chairwoman, Cash, a senior, has worked closely with Black over the past years in preparing for the festival. His personality out of the spotlight, she said, might surprise most people. "His style of comedy is like reading the news but angrier. He's Anderson Cooper with attitude,"

said junior Russell Johnson, one of the winners of last year's stand-up competition. "But he's just a nice guy who's really laid-back." The prize for winning one of three spots in the stand-up competition is the opportunity to open for "Lewis Black and Friends" at Memorial Hall Saturday. The lesser-known side of Black will be on display at 5 p.m. today during "Class with Black," an open forum for anyone to ask the comedian about anything from politics to academics. Black said he wanted to start the festival because he felt humor was an undeveloped muscle, especially in politically charged times. "Comedy is just not taught; it's idiosyncratically ignored," Black said. "It's treated as an accident, like we're primitive men finding fire." Black said he hopes the festival will grow into a nationally recognized event, drawing big names in comedy and students across the country. He said he is pleased that while the festival began with the big-ticket

SEE BLACK, PAGE 7