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Professor's remarks draw fire

Abortion comments anger some students

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

A UNC biology professor has sparked controversy after telling his embryology class last week that fetuses with Down syndrome should be aborted.

During a lecture, Albert Harris said: "In my opinion, the moral thing for older mothers to do is to have amniocentesis, as soon during pregnancy as is safe for the fetus, test whether placental cells have a third chromosome number 21, and abort the fetus if it does. The brain is the last organ to become functional."

Several students said they were

offended by Harris' remarks and don't think a professor should express such opinions in a class.

"I was in disbelief," said senior Lara Frame, who has a brother with Down syndrome. "I've never run across anyone who would say that to another individual, much less a class."

But some of the about 140 students in the class said the remarks weren't out of line.

"I thought it was perfectly justified," senior Scott Jones said. "I actually want to hear these opinions and form my own judgments about them. I think it's a matter of freedom of speech in education."

A UNC survey earlier this year showed that an overwhelming majority of students think their classroom environments allow for diverse expression of ideas.

Harris said his lecture was about frequency of birth defects, including Down syndrome, in mothers older than 40. He said abortion is the moral solution for a situation with a high rate of severe birth defects that can lead to death.

Forty to 50 percent of children with Down syndrome develop congenital heart defects and are 15 to 20 times more likely to develop leukemia than the general population, according to the Association for Children with Down Syndrome.

"It's this terrible decision," Harris

said. "Ninety percent of people in this position have an abortion."

But Harris said the decision often stems from misconceptions about people with Down syndrome.

"This population can lead a fairly normal life," she said.

Harris said he hoped his comments would spark a class discussion on the issue.

"I believe that if I'm going to expect students to express their opinions, I have to express mine," he said. "This can't help being partly an opinions class."

But some students said he didn't pause for discussion after making the statement, and Harris said biol-

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Vocalist performs tonight

BY ANDREW DUNN
SENIOR WRITER

Students might not know Chrisette Michele by name, but the 23-year-old has crooned on tracks with Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Nas, and was recently nominated for a Grammy award for her first single, released by Def Jam Recordings.

And today, the up-and-coming R&B singer will perform at Memorial Hall. Only about half of the tickets have been sold, and they are expected to be available up until showtime. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$20 for the general public.

"Her voice is very distinct. She's got a lot of 'powerful woman' songs," said Marie Monroe, Carolina Union Activities Board's performing arts committee chairwoman, who is organizing the concert.

"If you listen to mainstream R&B, you'd know her name."

Monroe also compared Michele's music to Ella Fitzgerald and Lauryn Hill.

Michele, also a songwriter and composer, was nominated for best R&B vocal performance at the 2008 Grammy Awards for "If I Had My Way," the first single off her debut album, "I Am."

She is also the first in a sequence of highly acclaimed artists who will perform on campus.

Swedish-Argentinian folk singer Jose Gonzalez will play March 3, Iron & Wine are slated to headline Memorial Hall on April 15, and Monroe said more names will be announced when contracts are finalized.

Monroe said she thinks Michele could take the path of John Legend and Lupe Fiasco, whose careers took off after playing Memorial Hall in 2004 and 2007, respectively.

"I've known about her because she was up-and-coming," said Monroe, who began pursuing Michele to perform at UNC in August. "I was hoping it would be like we got lucky and got her before she got famous."

CUAB paid \$7,500 to Michele for the concert, and about \$15,000 to Memorial Hall for production costs. Monroe said the price was reasonable for someone receiving regular play on radio station K97.5 and Black Entertainment Television.

Michele was originally slated to perform Feb. 13, but the concert was moved to today after a conflict developed with her promotions of Nivea skin cream.

Because of the change, ticket buyers were offered full refunds. Monroe said many were unable to make the new date because of other engagements.

But some of those who can attend the new date said they are excited about the opportunity.

"I love Chrisette's sound. She has a fresh, jazzy old-school blend that has the depth that so many artists today are lacking," junior Renisha Howard wrote in an e-mail.

"She encourages people through her lyrics that you can make it ... by staying true to yourself and letting your talent speak for itself."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

ATTEND THE SHOW

Time: 8 p.m. today
Location: Memorial Hall
Info: www.unc.edu/cuab/events.shtml

A BATTLE OF THE BREWS

McDonald's vs. Starbucks

BY RACHEL KUROWSKI
STAFF WRITER

A typical breakfast from McDonald's: an Egg McMuffin, hash browns — and an iced vanilla latte?

Three local McDonald's restaurants have plunged into the specialty coffee market, offering high-end beverages at lower prices than competitors.

The company is attempting to lure customers away from gourmet coffee shops as many Americans are cutting back on spending in light of the country's recent economic troubles.

"We're not just targeting Starbucks customers, we're targeting specialty-coffee drinkers in general," said Matt Ingold, supervisor of the McDonald's in Hillsborough.

"Today's customers are demanding different beverage options, and McDonald's has the opportunity to cater to their needs."

* As of last week, Ingold's store, as well as stores on Fordham Boulevard and N.C. 54 near the Streets at Southpoint, offer the gourmet coffee line.

The menu includes cappuccinos, hot chocolate, premium roast coffee, and regular and iced mochas and lattes.

A remaining question is whether loyal customers of Starbucks, the world's leading seller of gourmet coffee, will start heading to the Golden Arches for their caffeine fix.

For those on a budget, maybe. A medium latte from McDonald's costs \$2.49, compared to \$3.20 for a medium

SEE MCDONALD'S, PAGE 5



DTH/NICOLAS GULLETT

Three local McDonald's restaurants now sell high-end specialty coffees to compete with businesses such as Starbucks. Menu items include cappuccinos, hot chocolate and lattes, and the prices are lower than those of their competitors.

McDonald's

Iced Mocha

16 oz.

\$3.18

with tax

Starbucks

Grande Iced Mocha

16 oz.

\$3.74

with tax

Thomas ups his game in Lawson's absence

BY JESSE BAUMGARTNER
SENIOR WRITER

The first slam, a routine two-hander off a baseline cut, drew a stunned reaction.

Something to the tune of — hold up, was that just Quentin Thomas?

But that play was merely a precursor to the second dunk, a combination of athleticism, timing and showmanship that the senior has rarely meshed together during his UNC career and another sign of his growing confidence at the point.

Covered on the perimeter by multiple Virginia Tech defenders Saturday, Thomas executed a check-those-ankles juke to get into the lane. Nearing the hoop at full speed, he took off and, rather than just laying it up, kept rising to force the ball home with his left hand as the crowd's "Quueee" cheers reached a potential record level.

While teammates had seen such feats in practice, Thomas couldn't remember the last time he dunked in a game.

"I just tried to be aggressive and split," he said. "At the last minute I said, 'I think I'm high enough to try to dunk it.' So I tried to throw it down with my left. It was a good feeling."

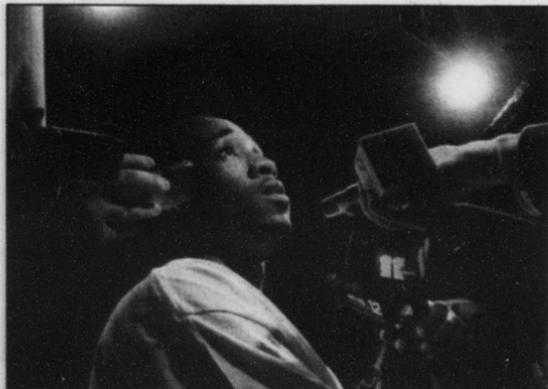
Some critics said UNC would struggle after the loss of Ty Lawson, who "feels better" but is still not expected to play Wednesday at N.C. State, coach Roy Williams said Monday.

But the polarizing Thomas has repeatedly pulled his weight while filling the shoes of one of the nation's best point guards.

Finishing Saturday's win against Va. Tech with six points, seven assists, a career-high six rebounds and only three turnovers, he improved his record to 4-1 in games where he's played at least 20 minutes this season.

While Thomas obviously hasn't supplied everything — most notably Lawson's 3-point shooting and roadrunner ability

SEE THOMAS, PAGE 5



DTH/LAUREN COWART

North Carolina senior point guard Quentin Thomas has raised his level of play while sophomore starter Ty Lawson has missed time because of injury.

Pedestrian safety projects in works

BY ZACK TYMAN
STAFF WRITER

Mothers often tell their children to look both ways when crossing the street and to ride their bikes on the sidewalk.

But by the time these children reach college, those rules can fall by the wayside, putting them at a greater risk for accidents, especially when they inhabit a pedestrian-oriented campus.

"I just usually go, assuming people will stop," senior Joshua Card said about the crosswalks for pedestrians. "But people are pretty good about stopping for you."

With about 28,000 students constantly traveling about a bustling campus, both pedestrian and bike safety are critical issues for those maneuvering around UNC.

Jill Coleman, landscape architect for Facilities

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CORRECTION

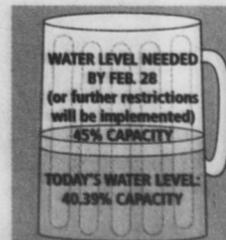
Due to a reporting error, Friday's front-page story "Murder suspect released on bail" incorrectly names the judge who set bail for William Stroud, who is charged with first-degree murder. District Court Judge Alonzo Coleman set bail. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

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WASTEWATER N.C. State University researches water recycling methods.

CAROLINA NORTH Student government held a forum for students Monday night.

STATE OF THE COUNTY Chatham officials map out issues facing the area.



water watch

CONSERVATION TIP
Turn off water while lathering, shampooing, shaving and brushing your teeth. Time your showers to be as short as possible.

this day in history

FEB. 19, 1965 ...

A UNC football player goes to a mock trial sponsored by Phi Alpha Delta after going through a fake arrest for spying on Elizabeth Taylor through her dorm window.

weather

Sunny
H 55, L 32

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