

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Pit Stop in Student Stores now open until late hours

The Pit Stop in Student Stores is now open until 11:30 p.m. for students craving a late-night snack.

The store, which sells basic conveniences, ranging from food to medicine, previously closed at 8 p.m.

Advisory committee touches on faculty tenure changes

The chancellor's advisory committee met Monday to discuss new trends arising in the academic workforce and identify possible responses to them.

The meeting was focused on a paper by Robert Lowman, associate vice chancellor for research.

Titled "Meeting the Challenge of a Changing Workforce," the paper suggests that UNC's faculty is aging, that its number of professors has increased while the number of tenure-track positions decreased and that increasing numbers of faculty are born outside the U.S.

Committee members and other officials brainstormed ways to attract and retain faculty members, considering new requirements for tenure, mentoring programs and the relative merits of hiring fixed-term and tenure-track faculty.

Chancellor James Moeser, who was sick with the flu, was not in attendance.

Student government taking applications until March 7

Students can apply for officer positions in the executive branch of student government until March 7.

Open positions will include student body vice president, student body secretary, student body treasurer, chief of staff and senior adviser.

Executive branch officer positions can give students an opportunity to represent the needs of students directly to University officials.

Full descriptions of the positions and an application can be found at studentorgs.unc.edu/studgov.

Any questions about the application or the job descriptions can be directed to J.J. Raynor, the student body president-elect for the 2008-09 school year, at jraynor@email.unc.edu.

CITY BRIEFS

Board member, investigated for embezzlement, resigns

Dennis Whiting, a member and former chairman of the Orange County Board of Education, resigned Monday from the board, effective immediately.

Board Chairman Ted Triebel read aloud a letter from Whiting at the end of the board's regular meeting. In the letter Whiting expressed his deep regrets and thanked the board for their hard work during his four-year tenure.

Whiting is under investigation for possible embezzlement of more than \$58,000 from a Durham law office owned by Thomas J. Stevens, where he worked until 2007.

Whiting was not present at the board meeting.

Chatham residents satisfied with county's transparency

Chatham residents said Monday's state of the county address was refreshingly transparent and a welcome change.

"Previous administrations kept us in the dark about what was really going on in the county," said resident Mark Barroso. "The board needs to be applauded."

In the address, Chatham County Commissioner Chairman George Lucier identified challenges presented by the county's rapid growth.

"This is a way for us to tell you about the things we're doing and why we're doing them," he told a packed room at the Chatham County Courthouse on Monday.

Visit www.dailytarheel.com for the full story.

Candidate files to run for county commissioner seat

Bernadette Pelissier filed Monday to run for the Orange County Board of Commissioners at-large seat.

Pelissier, who works for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, served on the Orange Water and Sewer Authority for six years. She also serves on the county's planning board.

"I've been involved in issues that span every corner of Orange County, so running for commissioner just makes sense for me," Pelissier stated in a press release.

She is the third candidate to file for the board but the first at-large candidate to do so. There are four seats open on the board. Candidates may run for either one at-large seat or as a candidate for either district 1 or 2, depending on where they live.

All candidates have until Feb. 29 to file.

— From staff and wire reports.

Law school eager for space

BY WHITNEY KISLING
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Before a new crop of law students ever walks through the doors of the Van Hecke-Wettach building, they already have had their first Carolina Law experience.

"When we assemble an orientation, we put them out on the street and hope it doesn't rain," said Jack Boger, dean of the School of Law.

The other option — putting all the students in the law school's rotunda — is hardly an option at all. That area holds only about 100 people, and the first-year class is usually 235 students.

Administrators expect that five years from now, it will be a different story and the first-year class could be housed in a new auditorium. Last week they lifted the curtain on plans to secure a larger and updated facility at Carolina North.

The move is supposed to make for a more comfortable learning environment, rather than bump up enrollment numbers.

The law school hasn't increased the size of its first-year class much during the past 10 years, except this year, when it took 240 students.

"I can't remember the last time that the target was higher or lower than 235 students," said Michael States, assistant dean of admissions for the law school.

Although the plan is to take 40 more students in the next five years, administrators say the expansion is about the necessity of state-of-the-art education facilities.

Plans for the Van Hecke building, which has begun to fall apart, have not yet been determined.

And for the law school community, the most talked about issue with the move seems to be whether the school will become further disconnected from the main campus.

But below the radar, there's a discussion about the quality of the legal education and what it means to have the school's identity tied to the name "Carolina North" versus "UNC-Chapel Hill."

The concept of Carolina North is a changing plan, originally lauded as a research and corporate-sponsored campus. The law school's decision means the satellite campus's identity is being redefined, allowing for more academic-centered units to be housed there.

The proximity of other departments to the Van Hecke building has helped create an environment for joint research among the faculty, a major focus of Carolina North.

"There's a lot of people that do law research and politics research," said Luis Lluberas-Oliver, Student Bar Association president.

If the law school is the only academic unit at Carolina North for some time, those relationships have the potential to become non-existent or hardly evident.

So far, the Innovation Center is the only other building with concrete plans going forward. Other academic groups and concepts have yet to

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Town weighs public finance

Trying to apply state's framework

BY ARIEL ZIRULNICK
SENIOR WRITER

The mayor's committee on campaign finance met Monday morning to iron out details in its plan to promote transparency and an even playing field in local elections.

The committee discussed rescue funds and benchmarks for receiving public money, two key aspects of a public campaign funding program that Chapel Hill is pioneering.

The meeting was held to review a framework suggested by the N.C. State Board of Elections and tailor it to Chapel Hill's needs.

If approved by the Chapel Hill Town Council, it could help finance council and mayoral candidates' campaigns with public money for the 2009 election.

"It's an intuitive process with the state board," said council member Bill Strom. "We're working with them to find the right set of rules for a voter-owned election program for Chapel Hill."

A chief concern was rescue funds, which prevent candidates using public funding from being outspent by opponents who opt out of the program.

Candidates using that funding would receive more public money if their opponents exceed suggested campaign spending thresholds.

"It creates incentive for non-participating candidates to hold down their spending and gives comfort to participating candidates to go into the program," Strom said, explaining that candidates will spend less if funds will close the gap regardless.

"There's a disincentive for someone to outspend them," he said.

The committee decided to include rescue funds as a separate provision despite concerns about complicating the campaign process, financing the fund and enforcing the necessary spending reports.

Benchmarks for matching candidates' spending with public funding also were established.

Candidates for council office will receive \$3,000 in public funds if they can raise \$750 from personal contributions and \$2,250 from other local avenues.

Mayoral candidates must raise \$1,500 in personal contributions and an additional \$4,500 from community sources to be matched with \$6,000 in public funds.

"It does open up the field to more citizens who do have a real base in the community but may not necessarily have access to a lot of money," said Bob Hall, executive director of Democracy North Carolina, a Durham-based nonprofit that advocates for campaign reform.

"This is an alternative way for candidates to run without having to rely on big money interests," he said.

The committee waffled over guidelines for determining what money counted toward the mini-

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Caralyn Duke and other members of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority won the first Dance Marathon Sorority Shakedown on Monday in the Union Auditorium, beating Pi Beta Phi sorority for a \$400 award for their national philanthropy, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

SORORITIES SHAKE DOWN

BY ZACK LEVINE
STAFF WRITER

The Student Union auditorium became center stage Monday night for the first-ever Dance Marathon Sorority Shakedown.

Members of the University's Greek community got the chance to showcase their dance moves, as two Panhellenic sororities competed in an effort to raise money for this weekend's Dance Marathon.

Attendees paid a donation of \$5 at the door in exchange for a night of choreographed entertainment. In addition to the sorority performances, the Dance Marathon morale committee also put on a show for the event.

The two participating sororities, Pi Beta Phi and Zeta Tau Alpha, put together dance routines and dazzled the audience of about 60 with the help of flashy lights and upbeat music in hopes of winning \$400 to be donated to their national philanthropy.

While every sorority on campus was invited to participate, most were unable to put anything together in time for the competition.

"It was an idea the overall committee came up with to get the Greek community more involved with Dance Marathon," campus fundraising chairwoman Casey Batts said. "Hopefully it will become a popular fundraising event and an even bigger success in years to come."

The organizers of the shakedown also held a dance-off between three volunteers from the audience. When the music stopped, freshman Lauren Eineker's dance moves led her to the win and a \$20 prize.

"I love to dance all the time in my room," she said. "I'll probably take my friends out for ice cream or to the Yogurt Pump with the prize money."

After the competition was over, the judges — a panel that included Student Body Vice

President Mike Tarrant and Dance Marathon program coordinator Rob Sellers — took a few minutes to review their notes and ruled that Zeta Tau Alpha won the shakedown. The winners were excited about being able to support breast cancer awareness.

"I have always loved dancing and the competition was a lot of fun," sophomore Corey Savas said. "We are thrilled to give the \$400 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research."

Overall, Dance Marathon members considered the event a success that helped spread word about the fundraiser for the N.C. Children's Hospital.

"It was very high enthusiasm," Sellers said. "We're really excited that this is a great foundation for future Dance Marathon fundraisers."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Perdue feels called to serve

N.C. Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue is running for the Democratic nomination for governor. Assistant State & National Editor Devin Rooney conducted a Q & A session with Perdue to hear her views.

DTH: Why did you choose to run?

Perdue: When you're in public service, you really don't choose to do anything. Folks around you encourage you to do it because they believe in your message and your capacity to lead, and as the lieutenant governor, obviously a lot of people have talked to me ... about the great opportunity I can have as the governor ... to move North Carolina forward.

DTH: Why are you the best candidate?

Perdue: I actually do think I am the best candidate because ... I have a long history of public service, since I was a young woman, of building a new North Carolina — from the mountains to the coast — of hope and opportunity for everybody. I have a track record that's full of getting the job done.

And I really can meet the challenges that we are going to face in these first important years of the 21st century. I think that really the most important work that the governor, our next governor, can do



N.C. Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue is running for the Democratic nomination for governor. Visit www.dailytarheel.com for the full Q & A session.

— and what I intend to do — is to put in place the platform ... that will allow North Carolina to continue to strive and be globally competitive as the world changes around us.

The world's getting smaller because of technology, and North Carolina needs to be more than prepared; we need to be ready and able and bold in our leadership.

DTH: What do you think of the job North Carolina is doing serving its students?

Perdue: I have a special place

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Eighth annual improv festival begins today

BY JESS THOM
SENIOR WRITER

With more than 400 performers and 70 acts, the eighth annual Dirty South Improv Comedy Festival will give audiences plenty of opportunities to find something to laugh at.

The improv festival has been the largest in the U.S. for the past three years, attracting artists from as far as New York City and Los Angeles. Beginning today, artists will lead and participate in workshops at DSI and perform at venues in Carrboro.

"The thing I'm really excited about this year is the level of talent," said Zach Ward, executive producer for DSI Comedy Theater. "Almost twice as many people submitted to the festival as last year, and we had to turn a lot of people down."

While last year the festival reached its climax with a performance at Cat's Cradle by "Saturday Night Live" comedian Horatio Sanz, this year improv performances by MC CHRIS, Death By Roo Roo, and BASSPROV will take the stage.

Ward said this year's festival drew attention from MySpace and the N.C. visitor's bureau for the first time. The organizations wanted to advertise the events on their Web sites.

The 2008 festival will also see the

Dirty South Improv Festival 2008 Highlight Events

Chapel Hill Players: 8 p.m. Wednesday, DSI Comedy Theater

BASSPROV: 9:30 p.m. Friday, ArtsCenter Mainstage in Carrboro

MC CHRIS: 11 p.m. Friday, Cat's Cradle

Death by Roo Roo, with BASSPROV and MC CHRIS: 9 p.m. Saturday, Cat's Cradle

High School Improv Showcase: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, DSI Comedy Theater

> Performances begin at 8 p.m. today and run through 7:30 p.m. Sunday.
> Visit www.dirtysouthimprov.com for ticket prices and a full schedule of events.

return of many who have made performing in the festival a tradition. Sarah Ashley, a junior at the University of Michigan, said the

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