

# The Daily Tar Heel

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www.dailytarheel.com

## Dance Marathon kicks off its 10th year at UNC

BY AMANDA YOUNGER  
STAFF WRITER

For 9 years UNC has celebrated the best one-night stand of its life. The traditional 24 hours of gyrating bodies and group dances will feature a record number of volunteers gathering in Fetzer Gym for the 10th annual charity event.

About 1,100 dancers and 300 moral-ers and other volunteers will participate — the first time dancer participation has surpassed the 1,000-person mark. Last year 674 dancers attended; the first marathon had just 100 dancers.

Event leaders have spent the year trying to avoid adolescent growing pains.

"We worked for six months to get enough food to feed 1,200 people," said senior Rob Sellers, overall committee chairman.

Several area businesses — including Chick-fil-A, Chipotle, Harris Teeter and several pizza shops — will be donating food for the event.

And in past years, dancers stayed within two of Fetzer's gymnasiums. This year dancers will be able to spread out into the hallways between the gyms to play board games and read magazines.

"We just really tried to think outside the box this year and to not just follow previous standards from past years," said senior Elisabeth Cordell, publicity chairwoman.

"Because it is the 10th year, there is an excitement on campus that's really helped to increase participation from students to campus performing groups to visitors to special guests."

Organizers also have invited alumni from event committees of the past nine years to join in once again in the festivities.

About 30 alumni are expected to attend, and committee members will be honored for their contributions with a special hour.

Cordell said event coordinators have planned a variety of special

**ATTEND DANCE MARATHON**  
Time: 6 p.m. today to 6 p.m. Saturday  
Location: Fetzer Gym  
Info: www.uncmarathon.org

features for the marathon but would not release details in order to maintain surprise for the dancers.

Pennsylvania State University started THON, a fundraiser similar to UNC's Dance Marathon, in 1973 to raise funds for pediatric cancer patients. More than 80 college campuses participate in marathons affiliated with the Children's Miracle Network.

In the past decade, the event, started by UNC student Michael Bucy in 1999, has contributed almost \$1.3 million to the For the Kids Fund, which provides money to families at N.C. Children's Hospital that will pay for expenses.

Last year's marathon raised nearly \$237,000, the UNC event's record high.

"There is an excitement on campus that's really helped to increase participation."

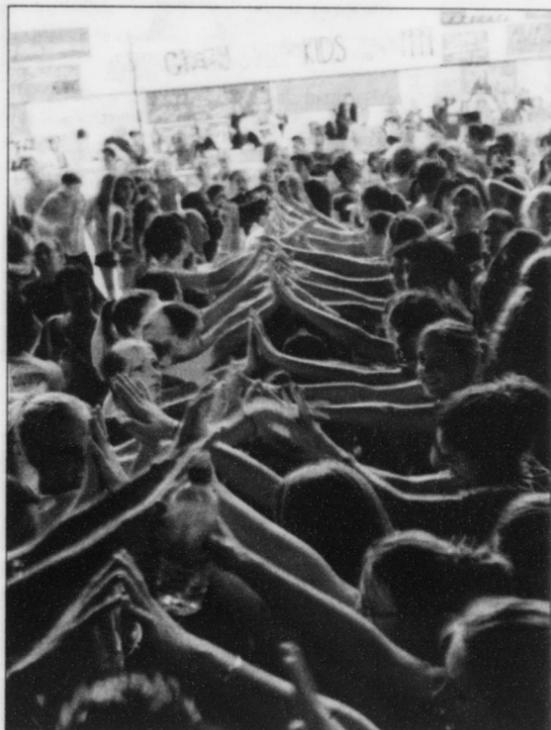
ELISABETH CORDELL,  
DANCE MARATHON PUBLICITY CHAIRWOMAN

The generosity is what first attracted sophomore Eric Johnson to participate in the 24-hour event.

This is his second year dancing, and he said he is excited to participate once again.

"The ability to be able to dance is a sign of solidarity," Johnson said. "To stand among all the dancers for 24 hours and to stand up, literally, for a great cause, for the children's hospital, is something I couldn't pass up."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.



Students walk under a tunnel of arms during UNC's Dance Marathon last year. The event, in its 10th year, is a fundraiser for N.C. Children's Hospital.

## Ferrell's tour stops at UNC

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY  
AND SETH WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITERS

Will Ferrell will be seeing empty seats for the first time in the second-to-last performance of his "Funny or Die Comedy Tour" in the Smith Center today.

The show, which begins at 8 p.m. today, has sold 12,000 tickets at \$45 each. The Smith Center seats 21,750 for normal operations.



Tickets remain for comedian Will Ferrell's Smith Center show tonight.

Opening at Kansas State University on Feb. 4, the tour sold out all eight locations except for its UNC appearance. Other venues hosting the tour have seated between 7,657 and 20,000 individuals.

The "Funny or Die Comedy Tour" is presented by "Semi-Pro," a basketball-themed movie starring Ferrell, which opens in theaters Feb. 29. Comedians Zach Galifianakis, Nick Swardson and Demetri Martin will perform alongside Ferrell.

"I really wanted to go until I saw the ticket price," freshman Andrew Ginn said. "Most of the

**ATTEND THE SHOW**

Time: 8 p.m. today  
Location: Smith Center  
Info: www.livenation.com

other events we have are \$10 or \$15."

Some schools participating in the tour, such as Pennsylvania State University, offered student tickets for \$20. Ohio State University's Ohio Union Activities Board gave 12,000 free tickets to students for Ferrell's appearance in Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 6.

But Tim Nichols, Student Congress speaker pro-tem, said the \$45 UNC ticket price was not an issue.

"It will be great to actually see (Ferrell) in person," Nichols said. "I signed on the second they allowed us to buy student tickets, so I have floor seats."

Although many tickets remain unsold, some students said they were enthusiastic for the event.

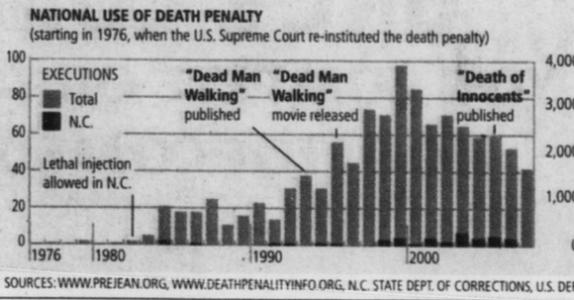
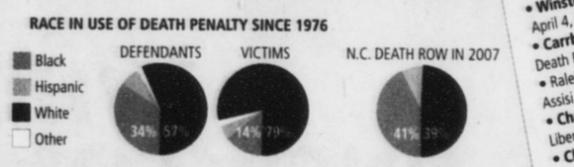
"(The price is) a little steep, but it's Will Ferrell," said Jenny Stevens, who graduated in May 2007 and will return to Chapel Hill for the event. "It's kind of a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing."

Today's audience can expect to see Ferrell perform as familiar characters in several skits.

According to Graham Beckwith, SEE FERRELL, PAGE 11

## A NUN'S QUEST TO END THE DEATH PENALTY

Acclaimed anti-death penalty author and speaker Sister Helen Prejean has visited more than 70 communities in the continental U.S. the past year. See pg. 4 for the story.



## Coach surprises critics in first year

BY GRAY CALDWELL  
SENIOR WRITER

When Wake Forest head coach Skip Prosser died July 26, 2007, then-assistant coach Dino Gaudio lost his best friend.

He had coached with Prosser for 17 years at both the high school and college levels, five of them at Wake Forest. Two weeks after Prosser's death, Gaudio stepped up to a podium to announce he would take the place of his longtime mentor.

"This is a very bittersweet moment for me," Gaudio said at the time.

"I love Wake Forest, and I love the Atlantic Coast Conference. But I also love Skip Prosser, and to become the head coach under these circumstances is not what I had envisioned."

"But I am also thrilled that I have been entrusted with the future of Deacon basketball."

And to the surprise of many, the future has started a little early in Winston-Salem.

Picked by the ACC media to finish 11th in the conference this preseason, Gaudio has led the surprising Demon Deacons (16-8, 6-5 ACC) to fifth place in the ACC, just a half-game back of Clemson and Maryland for third.

Fresh off one of Wake Forest's biggest wins in the past two seasons — an 86-73 upset win against then-No. 2 Duke on Sunday — Gaudio has his very young team primed to earn its way into the NCAA Tournament this March, a feat that seemed quite a stretch just a few months ago.

"To try to motivate these kids this season, we've talked a lot about going to the tournament and how important these games are," Gaudio said during Monday's ACC teleconference.

"We talk a lot about it because it's their goal and our goal right



Wake Forest coach Dino Gaudio has led the team to a 16-8 record.

SEE COACH, PAGE 11

## WATER WATCH

## OWASA draws from lessons of 2002 drought

### Conservation practices have changed

BY JESSICA STRINGER  
STAFF WRITER

The 2002 drought got so bad that UNC students almost were sent home.

"It wouldn't have been too much longer," former Orange Water and Sewer Authority board member Mark Marcoplos said.

With water running out, OWASA recommended a deal to buy water from Durham.

The next day, it rained, kick-starting the drought recovery after months of conservation efforts.

More than five years later, the area is looking to lessons OWASA

learned to guide Chapel Hill and Carrboro out of another drought.

University Lake, the Cane Creek Reservoir and the Quarry Reservoir contained 40.28 percent of their capacity as of Thursday. But in late summer of 2002, the level reached a low of 32 percent, OWASA spokesman Greg Feller said.

It wasn't until late that summer that OWASA implemented mandatory conservation measures, which Bernadette Pelissier, OWASA board chairwoman at the time, said should have happened earlier.

After rain replenished the lakes, OWASA looked back and pre-

pared measures in case of another drought.

"One of the main things we learned was that we weren't as well prepared as we could have been," Marcoplos said.

Pelissier, who is running for the Orange County Board of Commissioners, said the board reviewed and reworked the conservation measures.

They recommended surcharges for water use exceeding the average household use because "we need to have a way to tell people not to use more water than absolutely necessary during a drought," Pelissier said.

In June 2003, year-round restrictions were implemented.

"We went to year-round water restrictions, which no other jurisdiction in the Triangle did," Marcoplos said.

Marcoplos said this early action saved water and made it clear to the community that water needs to be conserved.

They advised requiring that restaurants not serve water unless the customer asks for some. Pelissier said OWASA had a "goal to communicate to the public that water should not be taken for granted."

Since 2002, residents have used 10 percent less water than OWASA predicted they would based on 1990s trends, Feller said.

SEE DROUGHT, PAGE 11

## OWASA conservation changes because of 2002 Drought:

► Surcharges during drought conditions for homes that have high water use.

**Year-round conservation, including:**

► Restaurants only serve water upon request.

► Irrigation limited to three days a week, only from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.

► Irrigation systems require automatic controllers and rain or moisture sensors.

► Hotels change bed linens only upon customer's request or every five days.

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### WAITING PAYS OFF

So far under the new basketball ticket policy, everyone who has used the standby line has been admitted into games, including to the one against rival Duke.

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### WOMEN'S HOOPS

The Tar Heels defeated the Miami Hurricanes Thursday night 79-61 in an away game. Also, this year's squad has a different offensive style than past Final Four teams.

**water watch**

WATER LEVEL NEEDED BY FEB. 28 (or further restrictions will be implemented) 45% CAPACITY

TODAY'S WATER LEVEL: 40.28% CAPACITY

**CONSERVATION TIP**

Before hot water comes through a faucet or shower head, catch and use the lukewarm water for plants.

this day in history

FEB. 22, 2001 ...

Students for Economic Justice gather at South Building to protest UNC's relations with Nike. They wanted a response about working conditions at a Mexican factory.

weather

Rainy H 40, L 40

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