

BRACKETS

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to any bracketology success. "A lot of people that don't follow sports will pick based on the mascot or color of their uniform," Soloff said, suggesting that students should do some outside research before choosing their brackets. But selecting the tricky yet inevitable upsets is just as important as predicting the national champion in the overall scheme of bracket selection.

UNIONS

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munication are open, (unionization) is not a pressing need." UNC graduate students, as well as University employees, are denied collective bargaining rights under N.C. General Statute 95-98. Since its enactment in 1959, attempts at repealing the law have quickly failed, Kleinschmidt said. "We just haven't historically been a state where collective bargaining unions have been strong," he said. "There is a perception that allowing people to advocate for their own interests is harmful to the state." Earlier this semester, Maryland graduate students formed an unofficial union and partnered

The process of deciding which underdog will terminate the hopes and dreams of a powerhouse team is what gives beginners as good a chance of creating a superior bracket as experts. "This year you should go a lot more for the surprise pick. There are a lot of gray areas," Boone said. "Research the teams and go with your instinct."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

"Can you imagine if there was a grad student strike? The university would shut down."

MARK KLEINSCHMIDT, TOWN COUNCIL with state legislators to introduce legislation into both state houses that would have allowed for collective bargaining rights at the university. Although both bills were defeated in early March, the group's Web site proudly encourages members to "Get ready for 2009!"

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

St. Patrick's celebrations shift

Holiday coincides with Holy Week

BY ALLISON MILLER
SENIOR WRITER

Patrick Hogan, an Irish-Catholic junior, plans to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year much like he has in the past — with a feast of corned beef, cabbage and perhaps some green beer.

But some Irish Catholics will tone down or forgo their typical celebrations today because the holiday falls during Holy Week for the first time since 1940.

"It puts a little damper on things," said Father John Wall, who leads UNC's Newman Catholic Student Center.

During Holy Week, the seven days preceding Easter, Christians observe the events of Christ's final days, his death and resurrection.

Wall said he plans to celebrate, though it will be "a little more subdued."

"I'll go out and meet with some folks and have a happy time and probably a little bit of wearing of the green," he said.

The Newman Center usually doesn't have any St. Patrick's Day celebrations because of the holi-

day's proximity to the University's Spring Break, Wall said.

St. Patrick's Day is the feast day of the Catholic saint famed for driving all the snakes out of Ireland.

Traditionally the Irish celebrated the day with Mass and a meal of meat and cabbage. But the big parades and festivals were started by Irish immigrants living in America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

This year, church officials switched the holiday feast day from today to March 15 to avoid a conflict with Holy Week. Some cities, including Philadelphia and Savannah, Ga., held their St. Patrick's Day parades a few days before March 17 to avoid conflict. But Dublin, Ireland, will hold events today.

Raleigh's traditional parade has always been held the Saturday before the holiday, parade chair-

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FATHER JOHN WALL, UNC'S NEWMAN CATHOLIC CENTER

man Frank Mellage said. This year's March 15 date had nothing to do with Holy Week.

"If we had our druthers we would schedule the parade actually on St. Patrick's Day," he said.

But the parade attracts more people when it is on a weekend, he said. Hogan said the holiday's Holy Week date won't change his plans to celebrate. He said that as he was growing up, St. Patrick's Day festivities were a family affair.

"We celebrate St. Patrick's Day as a family pretty much every year," he said.

Hogan added that he has tried to continue the tradition of celebrat-

ing the day since starting college. But his celebration has changed since being away from home. He said he and his two Irish-Catholic roommates were thinking of buying a keg of green beer and hosting a party.

"It's great that day falls into Holy Week," he said, noting that the proximity of the holiday to Easter makes it more special.

Future St. Patrick's Day revelers won't have to worry about the holiday conflicting with Holy Week for a long time. It won't happen again until 2160.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

BLOGGERS

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2005 with the idea that his blog "Talking Biz News" would become nationally known.

"The initial idea behind the blog was to have a place where my students could go that would tell what's going on in business journalism," Roush said. "From there it has kind of morphed into something that's used more by the industry ... than students."

Talking Biz News now gets more than 1,000 hits per day. And Roush has established connections with business-world celebrities, such as the leaders of The Wall Street Journal and Fortune Magazine that began when they posted comments on his blog. Shawn Graham, associate director of the MBA career management center with the Kenan-Flagler Business School, said he started his blog to reach a wide audience.

"I usually get to interact with people in small groups or one-on-one," he said. "This (blog) gives me a chance to work with a much broader audience."

Graham writes a career-advice blog for FastCompany.com and a job-seeker advice blog for CourtingYourCareer.com.

"It really does allow for communication about topics and connections with people," he said.

Blogs also provide a mostly permanent online record of events and news, as visitors can access archived posts. This allows bloggers to highlight something that might have been noticed in passing in a more permanent way.

The accessibility of these blogs even has changed politics, said Leroy Towns, professor of political communications in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Towns cited the 2002 resignation of former Miss. Sen. Trent Lott as an example of a political development that might not have occurred without blogs. Lott stepped down after a backlash from citizens and the media about comments he made during a birthday celebration for former S.C. Sen. Strom Thurmond.

Towns said Lott's comments were picked up by the bloggers and not the mainstream media.

"I think without bloggers, no one would have paid attention to what he said," Towns said.

Towns began his own blog "Talk Politics" in August 2007 to gain experience for himself and his students, whom he expects to make at least one post during the semester. And though many professors who blog work within the journalism school, blogs also provide an outlet for those who cannot communicate through the mainstream media.

"I think blogs have become important in politics because they allow campaigns to go around the gatekeepers, meaning the press, newspapers and television," Towns said. "If you have something you want to get out there, take it to the blogs."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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