

WHY SAVE PICS AND MUSIC, WHEN YOU CAN SAVE THE WORLD?



THE METAL GEAR FRANCHISE IS HERE

Arm your mobile phone with the tactical action and espionage of METAL GEAR. You'll experience the explosive action in a whole new way.

METAL GEAR SOLID MOBILE



METAL GEAR SOLID Exclusively provided on **verizon** wireless

Text Message: *MGS3* to 566264 to get more information
 Web Address: konamimobile.com/MGS3
 Google Search: "Metal Gear Solid Mobile"



METAL GEAR

METAL GEAR Exclusively provided on **at&t** Mobility and **verizon** wireless

Text Message: *MGS3* to 566264 to buy Metal Gear Solid
 Web Address: konamimobile.com/MGS3
 Google Search: "Metal Gear Solid"



KONAMI

N.C. prisons overcrowded

BY JAKE RATLIFF
STAFF WRITER

N.C. prisons are expected to run out of space this year, according to projections from the N.C. Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission.

The growing prison population is also proving to be a strain on the state's jails, which often serve as a pressure release valve when prisons don't have enough room for inmates. Prisons hold those sentenced for felonies, while jails hold those awaiting trial, those sentenced for misdemeanors and those confined for civil matters.

"If someone is going to the Department of Correction but there isn't enough space, we'll hold him," Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison said.

"It hurts us, but we understand we have to work together."

According to the commission's estimates, the N.C. prison population is expected to steadily increase from 39,397 in June 2008 to 46,801 by June 2017, thereby exceeding Expanded Operating Capacity by 885 to 6,137 prisoners, respectively. The EOC is the number of inmates a prison can legally hold and allows

for 130 percent of a prison's Standard Operating Capacity.

"I wouldn't say we're overcrowded right now," said Keith Acree, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Correction, adding that there will be overcrowding in the near future if current trends persist.

Although the number of inmates is increasing, Acree said that prison staff are not currently experiencing additional stress.

"I wouldn't say there is strain right now because the courts do not allow us to keep packing them in past the EOC," Acree said.

The Department of Corrections reimburses jails for temporarily holding inmates, but that still cuts into the Sheriff Department's budget and sometimes leads to overcrowding, Harrison said.

"Jail is a short-term solution," said Susan Katzenelson, executive director of the N.C. Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. "As a rule, jails are not a substitute for prisons because they cannot provide the same programs that prisons do."

While the Department of Corrections is responsible for planning new construction, it is the General Assembly's job to review

the department's plans and appropriate money, if any, to fund prison expansion, Katzenelson said.

Some legislators support decreasing the prison population rather than expanding facilities.

N.C. Sen. Eleanor Kinnaird, D-Orange, said the structured sentencing grid, which outlines minimum and maximum sentences for criminals, is in need of reform.

"The grid has problems, but every time legislators try to fix it they're afraid to look soft on crime," she said. "It's very short-sighted public policy."

Kinnaird said that because many inmates were abused as children, the school system can help by connecting social workers with children from abusive homes.

"It's about trying to turn one into a productive citizen, starting out as children," she said.

North Carolina's growing prison population reflects national trends as one out of every 100 adults in the United States is currently behind bars, according to a report from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

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

Ram Village available for summer

BY ZACK LEVINE
STAFF WRITER

Ram Village Apartments will host more than just summer school students soon, as they now are open for conference attendees to rent.

To reserve the apartments for their guests, conferences must have some sort of affiliation with the University. Ram Village will be rented out only to adult conferences, said Rick Bradley, assistant director in the Department of Housing and Residential Education.

"While we do use many other campus buildings for summer athletic camps and academic programs, Ram Village will be specifically reserved for adult conferences," Bradley said.

About five adult conferences have already reserved rooms for this summer.

Some of the already booked programs include a gathering for the Department of English and Comparative Literature and another for graduate-level doctors.

The Ram Village rental is part of an attempt to expand the uses of campus housing facilities while most students are away.

"The idea is to maximize the use of our buildings in the summer as opposed to leaving them empty," Bradley said.

The rooms can be rented at \$60 for a single or \$30 for a double per night. There are also weekly rates to fit the needs of conferences lasting more than a few days.

And renting Ram Village, as well as other campus housing facilities, allows the housing department to give back to the students. The extra money made by renting out these apartments goes back into making housing costs cheaper for students at a time when the department is facing budget challenges.

This new use of Ram Village brings competition to other local inns and hotels that have always hosted conference attendees.

Mark Nelson, the director of sales and marketing at the Carolina

Inn, said that 45 percent of the Inn's summer business is overnight conferences but that it's hard to say what the effect of this new competition will be.

"I don't think it will take from our business," Nelson said. "There are differences in what those people might need and the people that stay here might need."

Nelson also said he has been aware of Ram Village's new role for some time and believes it is a positive move.

"It's a nice addition," he said. "It gives folks a less expensive option to do things on campus."

Housing department officials said they believe renting out Ram Village Apartments is an opportunity for growth, Bradley said.

"Making use of campus buildings in the summer is something all universities do," he said. "We are looking to expand."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Forum addresses land transfer tax

BY EVAN ROSE
STAFF WRITER

For Mark Zimmerman, vice president of the Chapel Hill Board of Realtors, and other realtors at a Thursday forum on the land transfer tax referendum, the atmosphere was particularly hostile.

"We're facing a ruthless opposition," Orange County Commissioner Mike Nelson said, referring to those opposing the tax.

Zimmerman, dressed in his typical bow tie and blazer, said in his presentation that a land transfer tax is also a sales tax, albeit on property, that unfairly targets a specific proportion of the population.

The tax could place a 0.4 percent tax on eligible property transactions if it passes on the May 6 ballot.

Zimmerman said that according to his calculations, a sales tax would cost \$5 a year per resident.

One audience member pointed out that a realtor's 6 percent commission is much higher than the 0.4 percent land transfer tax.

Seven Orange County Democratic precincts sponsored the event, which brought together Kara Millonzi, professor in the UNC School of Government, N.C. Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, Nelson and Zimmerman.

Millonzi explained the technical aspects of the tax.

She said that although the commissioners passed a resolution of intent to spend funds generated by the tax on schools and parks, they have no power to bind future

boards to do the same.

Kinnaird and Nelson encouraged residents to consider the county's need to improve and expand its educational system.

"We have great needs for schools, and that's why people have been urging us to try and find a solution for this," Kinnaird said. "A sales tax is a regressive tax. We need to be fair and equitable."

Many audience members shared a common concern. "I want my kids to have great schools," Orange County resident Desiree Goldman said.

If the referendum does not pass, Nelson said the board might have to find funds by raising property taxes.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Obama has tough week, bright spots

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — Barack Obama refers to the past couple of weeks as a tough, turbulent stretch. And why not?

His foreign policy adviser quit for calling Democratic presidential rival Hillary Rodham Clinton a "monster." Then he had to distance himself from his longtime pastor's fiery statements, a controversy that threatened his image as a uniter. He trails in polls in the upcoming Pennsylvania primary. Obama also watched his lead wither in national opinion surveys.

But as bad weeks go, things certainly could have been worse.

Obama received generally favorable reviews for his somber speech on the nation's racial divide, though it didn't completely silence the criticism over his former pastor's rhetoric. Then Florida and Michigan indicated they would not hold new primaries to replace the contests that favored Clinton but violated party rules. Campaign finance reports showed him far ahead in the money race. And finally, he picked up the much sought-after endorsement of New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson — one Clinton also had coveted.

Pakistan's prime minister-in-waiting faces tough course against Musharraf

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's prime minister-in-waiting has the experience and track record to hold together an unwieldy coalition as it moves to neutralize President Pervez Musharraf, lawmakers said.

But Yousaf Raza Gilani also has a personal reason to ignore Musharraf's appeals for cooperation: he spent years in jail under the U.S.-backed leader.

Lawmakers are expected to confirm him in a parliamentary vote Monday. He is a shoo-in after opposition parties swept elections last month and Musharraf

is then expected to swear him in Tuesday.

"Mr. Gilani is a man who suffered from Musharraf's martial law," said Ahsan Iqbal, a lawmaker for one of four parties which have agreed to form a new coalition government. "He understands well that getting rid of dictatorship is important."

Gilani, a loyalist of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto, will lead an administration facing mounting economic problems, including double-digit inflation, power shortages and sagging foreign investment.

Cheney defends Israel's security

JERUSALEM (AP) — In a bold defense of Israel, Vice President Dick Cheney said Saturday that the United States wants a new beginning for the Palestinian people but will never pressure Israel to take steps that would jeopardize its security.

Cheney, on an Easter week-end visit to Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories, reaffirmed Washington's commitment to establishing a Palestinian state — a feat he said would require painful concessions on both sides. He also said that the U.S. and Israel must keep an eye on Iran and other regional adversaries.

Green Zone hit by sustained assault

BAGHDAD (AP) — Rockets and mortars pounded Baghdad's U.S.-protected Green Zone Sunday and a suicide car bomber struck an Iraqi army post in the northern city of Mosul in a surge of attacks that killed at least 57.

The latest violence underscored the fragile security situation and the resilience of both Sunni and Shiite extremist groups as the war enters its sixth year.

Attacks in Baghdad probably stemmed from rising tensions between rival Shiite groups — It was the most sustained assault in months against the nerve center of the U.S. mission.