

TREES

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But Coker also planted several nonindigenous species including incense cedars located outside of Murphey Hall.

After a series of hurricanes caused destruction in Mexico, students traveled to a college there to provide aid to students and local residents. They returned with a living thank you gift — a water oak. "El Arbol de Amistad," or the friendship tree, located next to Peabody Hall, was given to the University in the 1950s.

Bythell said the act of giving a tree illustrates the importance placed on nature in various cultures.

The construction years

The importance of trees and landscaping is evident by the efforts to preserve this living history.

So a task force on landscape heritage and plant diversity compiled a report, which addresses the need to protect landscapes from impending construction. It was published in January 2005.

The task force recorded every tree on campus and established a protection policy that includes fencing, logging mats, mulch and carefully laid out construction entrances.

"We try to protect every tree," UNC Landscape Architect Jill Coleman said. "If it's not possible then we use the replacement policy."

The replacement policy states that if a tree must be removed because of construction, the diameter of the space it occupied should be measured and later compensated.

Bythell also reintroduces trees species that used to stand on campus, such as horse chestnuts.

"We make sure we are replacing the canopy we are losing," Coleman said.

Although some trees were threatened in the past — such as the tree by Woolen Gym that held Dean Smith's effigy — few now are at risk because of construction.

Duke University faces similar problems with maintaining its canopy.

"Like any campus that's growing, you're going to have issues where expansion is going to come in contact with areas with trees," said Mark Hough, a Duke University campus landscape architect.

But unlike UNC, Duke has no official replacement policy, though Hough said the Durham university replaces more trees than it removes.

A growing plan

Cultivating a landscape is an evolving process.

"You have to be patient," Bythell said. "I'm planting these trees for my children and my grandchildren."

At UNC, the newer parts of campus, Coleman said, require more work to integrate them with North Campus.

"When you compare past to present, with the historic campus, the landscape defined the buildings," she said. "Below South Road, the buildings define the landscape."

South Campus, along with Carolina North, are part of future renovations that will focus on environmental conservation.

"We are becoming more efficient with the use of energy, and landscaping reflects this," Coleman said.

And years after Davie founded UNC by the Davie Poplar, UNC officials say they still understand the importance that nature can have on cultivating a rich academic life and fostering parts of the past.

"There is a great intellectual climate out here," Bythell said of the campus community. "The last thing students need is stress, therefore, a calming landscape around campus would help prevent this."

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DEMOCRATS

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tainly did feel a need to speak to the ongoing issues that were pending against Speaker Black at the time."

Glazier said he doesn't expect Wright's expulsion to be a similar liability in statewide elections, adding that it might be different if Democrats had supported Wright.

"If in the face of all reason Democrats as a party were defending him, then I think it would have repercussions at the polls."

He added that the swift action taken by the House helped foster public support for the legislature.

However, public concerns about the internal operations of the N.C. Democratic Party were raised last year in Charlotte when a special election for sheriff was ruled invalid because party officials violated

OFFENDERS

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inals opt to serve jail time rather than participate, and many of the programs are too short to fully address an offender's addictions.

"These programs are trying to help, and the cost of operation is minimal for the service they provide," Fenhagen said. "But there is still an overwhelming societal need."

Risky behavior

Those who see the frequent flyers said that most struggle with mental health, drug or alcohol issues.

"A lot of times, it's the circumstances that they live with that drive them to commit these crimes," Woodall said.

Drug, alcohol and mental health problems impair judgment and reduce opportunities for advancement, Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran said.

"I think most of these folks have limited horizons in terms of their world," he said. "But (crime is) an easy thing to do when they don't see it as highly risky behavior."

Most repeaters engage in behaviors that make them more prone to multiple arrests, and Woodall said many commit small misdemeanors like trespassing, larceny or shoplifting.

The most frequent repeat offenders had at least five misdemeanor charges brought against them in 2007.

Topping the list of offenders in the downtown business district are Michael Chandler, Donald Macauly and Richard Stey, who have 34 misdemeanor charges between them for 2007. Macauly faced 12 charges, while Stey and Chandler each faced 11 charges.

Trespassing topped the list for the most frequent misdemeanors in the downtown area, with 216 incidents reported. For the same year, larceny came in second with 205 incidents.

"There's a lot of people we arrest over and over again," Curran said. "We try to stay on our toes and catch individuals who are a drag on society."

"But we could use more help from the community to prevent further activity."

Mental health foundations

The mental health care system of Orange County is in flux, struggling to find an overall provider for the community's needs after the main provider, Caring Family Network, cut most of its services in the area in February.

"One of the difficulties we face is that the community has gotten the idea that services in the entire county have come to an end because Caring Family Network left," Orange-Person-Chatham Area Director Judy Truitt said.

"The reality is that services by that agency are ending, but mental health care has been part of our system for

regulations in creating new voting districts too close to the election.

The decision drew allegations of racism and gerrymandering, as the winner, Nick Mackey, who is black, was prevented from taking office, and ultimately county commissioners appointed a white candidate.

Joel Ford was elected chairman of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party on March 5 after the former chairman stepped down in the wake of the invalidated election.

Ford said he doesn't believe there will be continued fallout, especially since the upcoming primary and general election will be handled by the State Board of Elections.

Ford added that he is trying to increase transparency in the hopes of eventually rebuilding trust.

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decades and will continue to be."

The OPC is working with local organizations such as Club Nova, Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Freedom House Recovery Center and UNC Hospitals to meet the county's various mental health care needs.

"We are building capacity with other providers to move in behind Caring Family Network and offer outpatient treatment, medication management, community support services and individual treatments," she said.

Truitt said the failure of mental health care across the nation has resulted in mental health patients being prescribed jail time rather than treatment.

The OPC has a history of working closely with jails, law enforcement and the general community to prevent such people from ending up in jail.

"These are serious issues that don't go away if someone is simply incarcerated," she said.

Across the state, measures are being taken to work with inmates who are already in the system and display mental health issues.

Truitt said many are in the process of hiring staff to work with mentally ill inmates in an effort to prevent these individuals from progressing deeper into the criminal justice system.

Still, Fenhagen said the programs and services offered in Orange County just are not meeting the demand.

"These types of programs are severely lacking in this area, and without treatment we can't expect a change in behavior."

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ADDICTION

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or bigger rewards later," Boettiger said. "The short-sighted decision-making is a characteristic of substance abuse disorders."

Fulton Crews, director of UNC's Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, said most research has focused on how drugs affect drinking habits.

"What's particularly groundbreaking is that she's showing that complex mental processes are affected by anti-drinking medications," he said.

Boettiger identified genetic differences that cause varying levels of dopamine — a chemical that affects motivation — in the brain.

She found that people fell into one of three categories of gene patterns, each causing a different level of dopamine. Those with the lower levels of dopamine tended to choose the immediate reward, she said, making them more likely to suffer from a substance abuse disorder.

She also found that periods of sobriety might not reduce the likelihood of a relapse.

"People's decision-making did not correlate with how long they had been sober," Boettiger said.

Boettiger conducted the study during a two-year period at the University of California at Berkeley with 32 subjects, many of them

Alcoholics Anonymous members.

Boettiger and her team analyzed data and released the study after her UNC appointment in July 2007.

MRI scanners were used to monitor blood flow in the brain, which allows researchers to detect brain activity and determine which areas of the brain control various types of decision-making. Researchers also used blood samples and cheek swabs to gather genetic information.

The study creates many research possibilities for Boettiger's Cognition and Addiction Biopsychology Lab at UNC, she said.

Boettiger wants to study the brain patterns of people with family histories of alcoholism and the effects of drugs that change dopamine levels on decision-making behavior. Future research might indicate that such drugs can aid recovering alcoholics.

But for now, Boettiger and her postdoctoral fellow Vicki Chanon are looking into a study of smokers.

Their current project is studying the attention patterns of smokers. Subjects are shown a series of images, some of which relate to smoking. So far, the study has found that smokers often are distracted by the smoking image and miss the images that follow.

The study compares smokers to a control group of nonsmokers and a group of sports enthusiasts to deter-

mine the difference between cigarette addiction and other interests.

The next step is to study this phenomenon using an MRI scanner to study how it affects the brain.

"The long-term goal is to find brain areas that could be targeted for treatment," Chanon said.

The smoking study might be expanded to alcoholics — a subject on which few studies exist, Boettiger said.

"It's definitely an area where we need to do a lot more research."

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PREPARATIONS

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Lyons added that students are part of Obama's core coalition of supporters who weren't previously politically active.

"Sen. Obama is taking it very seriously," she said, referencing the youth vote. The campaign chiefly will ask student groups to work on registering voters.

Vivek Chilukuri, president of Students for Obama, said his group has been registering student voters on campus since Monday.

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

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Clinton, Obama to stump in N.C.

RALEIGH (AP) — Officials with Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign downplayed the importance of the North Carolina primary on Monday, as both she and Barack Obama announced plans to stump in the state this week.

Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson said the campaign doesn't consider North Carolina a must-win state. He answered a question about North Carolina with a focus on Pennsylvania, calling it an ethnically, racially and demographically diverse state that is vital to Democrats in the November election.

Former President Bill Clinton said last week during a campaign stop in Cary that the nominating race may come down to North Carolina. Several campaign observers have said the state is a must-win for Clinton.

Cheney attempts to negotiate peace in diplomatic visit to Middle East

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney, concluding two days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, said Monday that Hamas militants and their backers in Iran and Syria are playing the role of spoiler in Mideast peace talks.

Cheney said there's ongoing concern about the extent to which arms are being smuggled across the Egyptian border into Gaza where they're being used by Hamas to attack Israel.

Cheney, a strong supporter of Israel, talked with reporters in

Jerusalem after having breakfast with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, the last in a series of meetings to talk about regional issues and nudge Israeli and Palestinian leaders to reach a peace agreement before President Bush leaves office in January 2009. He said Olmert told him that despite the difficulties, he would do everything he can to try to achieve an agreement.

He also spoke to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas about efforts in Yemen to encourage reconciliation between Abbas' moderate Fatah Party and Hamas.

U.S. death toll in Iraq reaches 4,000

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Marking a grim milestone, a determined President Bush declared Monday the lives of 4,000 U.S. military men and women who have died in Iraq "were not lost in vain." The White House signaled anew that additional troops won't be pulled out soon.

A roadside bomb in Baghdad killed four U.S. soldiers Sunday night, pushing the death toll to 4,000. That number pales compared with those of other lengthy U.S. wars, but it is much higher than many Americans, including Bush, ever expected.

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