

# Community unites to help accident victim

6-year-old girl now is partially paralyzed

BY BRITTANY JACKSON  
STAFF WRITER

In response to an April 10 car accident that left a six-year-old resident with brain and spinal damage, the town of Hillsborough has come together to raise money for the victim's family's needs.

Khari Clark-Hester was riding in the back seat on the passenger side of her mother's car when a truck struck their vehicle as it turned into the family's driveway. Khari is now paralyzed from the waist down.

But her grandparents said she doesn't view her injuries as a setback.

"It hasn't gotten her down," said Sucovis Hester, Khari's grandmother. "She's in good spirits. She's just a happy, cheerful, friendly little girl."

Khari spent five weeks at UNC Hospitals before moving to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, where she will stay until June 16, when she will move in with her

grandparents in Hillsborough.

The Hesters have gone through training to prepare for caring for Khari once she arrives home. They said treatment will include the same rehabilitation she currently is undergoing at the children's hospital, along with daily tasks of catheterizing and medicating her.

"She'll learn to do most of this stuff herself," Sucovis Hester said. "She's still going to be an independent Khari and want to do everything herself."

Ricky Clark, a coworker of Khari's grandfather, Malcolm Hester, has known Khari since she was born.

"She's always been Malcolm's right hand," Clark said. "She loves the outdoors. If he was going fishing or if he was coaching on the field, that's right where she was."

Building a wheelchair ramp, paying medical bills and obtaining a medical car seat are some of the immediate needs the Hesters face.

Coworkers of Malcolm Hester, who is the Water Plant Operator 2 for the town of Hillsborough, took initiative to plan fundraisers just a couple of weeks after Khari's acci-

dent. Clark said he and coworkers started out by just giving cards with donations.

"But when we found out how severe the accident was, we knew we needed to do something bigger to help them out," he said.

Clark and a few others took on the task of organizing a benefit golf tournament at Cedar Grove Golf Course set for June 14.

"I'm so thankful that we live in a community that would do this for us," Sucovis Hester said. "The response from the public has been amazing."

But amid all of the support for the Hesters, Khari remains the primary focus.

"There's still a 10 percent chance she could walk again, so we will never give up hope," Malcolm Hester said.

Her family has seen her make great progress in just more than two months, Sucovis Hester said.

"She's come a long way from where she started, and knowing Khari, she's going to keep on."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

## WATER RODEO HELPS BEAT THE HEAT



DTH/STEPHANIE NIEVES

Ward Scott helps his son, Sander Scott, remove a hook from a catfish at Saturday's Youth Fishing Rodeo. Though the duo had a hard time wrangling a fish that could outweigh a three-and-a-half pound catch made earlier, they made their presence known at the judging table with several trips throughout the day to present the multitude of catfish they nabbed in hopes of outweighing the first-place contender.

# Researchers to use grant toward telescope project

Instruments may aid UNC curricula

BY SARAH HENDERSON  
STAFF WRITER

Several of the 16 UNC recipients of this year's N.C. Space Grant program are using the money to work on overlapping telescope projects.

The grant awarded \$472,500 to faculty and students at 11 N.C. universities for research and programs that focus on the future of space exploration.

Daniel Reichart, an associate professor at UNC, along with his team, has built a group of small telescopes called Panchromatic Robotic Optical Monitoring and Polarity Telescopes (PROMPT) at an observatory in the Chilean Andes. There are also telescopes in Colorado and California.

These telescopes are designed to chase and image cosmic gamma-ray bursts (GRBs), which form when massive stars implode and leave a black hole.

"Back in '05, one of the explo-

sions we were chasing turned out to be the most distant in the universe," Reichart said. "We still hold the record."

Reichart received a \$10,000 N.C. Space Grant to rewrite and modernize UNC's Astronomy 101 lab curriculum. His students will use the high-tech PROMPT telescopes instead of the older ones currently used.

"They are going to do labs from some of the world's best observatories instead of downtown Chapel Hill," Reichart said. "We will bring them into the 21st century using real telescopes."

Undergraduates Mark Schubel and Summers Brennan are members of Reichart's research team, along with Kevin Ivarsen, a full-time staff member in Reichart's group. They each received \$5,000 grants for their individual projects from the N.C. Space Grant program.

Schubel models GRBs to get information about the early uni-

verse, and Brennan's focus is on data reduction. Images produced by the telescopes in Chile have to be reduced in order to view the data, which requires teamwork among the researchers.

"Undergrads like myself go through the data and use software to reduce it," Brennan said. His grant will help develop a "pipeline" to speed up data reduction.

"PROMPT telescopes are very good at taking pictures very fast, but they aren't very fast at reducing data we get," he said. "We have all of this data and have no clue what it is."

Ivarsen is working to enhance and add new features to the Zoom In exhibit in the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, which will incorporate the PROMPT telescopes.

The biggest addition he wants to install is a Web cam at the site of the telescopes in Chile to make their presence more real.

"It will be a very interactive experience where they can explore the site in Chile from Chapel Hill," Ivarsen said. "They can move around and see other telescopes on the mountain, the local wildlife and the scenery of the other country."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

# Book to house APPLES core

BY ANIKA ANAND  
STAFF WRITER

Afraid that the experience of service-learning might someday be lost, APPLES professor Rachel Willis decided to write a handbook for duplicating the impact of the program in universities across the country.

Willis has watched APPLES, or Assisting People in Planning Learning Experiences in Service, grow for almost 20 years. "Harvest from the APPLES Orchard: Reflections on Service-Learning at the Nation's First Public University" is her attempt to institutionalize that knowledge.

In the spring of 2007 she began the laborious task of collecting essays from contributors who had participated in APPLES programs.

The goal of the book is to put APPLES on the national service-learning map as the first-ever student-initiated and -led program in higher education, she said.

The book is composed of four key components. These include the history of APPLES and reflections on what APPLES has meant in the lives of students and faculty.

It also will highlight the various partnerships APPLES has created with faculty, community patrons and administrators. Finally, "Harvest" will emphasize the dynamic nature of APPLES by highlighting its strategic innovations of change.

Currently, there are 20 authors who will contribute to the book.

The goal is to have it finished by 2009 and ready to distribute in 2010, just in time for APPLES' 20th anniversary.

The hyphen between "service" and "learning" represents a balance between the two, Willis said, attributing the phrase to humanitarian Robert Sigmon.

"You should be bringing to the community what you have learned," Willis said. "It is not simply volunteerism, rather a reciprocal relationship."

After participating in an alternative Spring Break trip to New York City, senior Ben Kinattukarathadathil said he understands the difference between volunteerism and service-learning.

On the trip, students worked with patients diagnosed with terminal

diseases. Kinattukarathadathil said he learned more from serving on the reflection committee after the trip.

"We got to see it from a lot of other standpoints," he said. "Everyone brings up other ideas you would have never thought of."

Willis is proud to say that many of her students who participated in APPLES through the years have gone on to do great things.

"They do amazing work that is meaningful, and it keeps coming back to UNC," she said. "We are a research institution, and we do research on what is effective on service-learning. We invented service-learning and greatly benefited from collaborating with one another."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

# Drought conditions still problem for state

Heat, lack of rain threaten reservoirs

BY BRITTANY MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

Even with reservoirs at full capacity, some parts of the state are still facing major drought conditions.

Across North Carolina, 28 counties are considered to be in extreme drought, 18 are in a severe drought and nine are in a moderate drought. 21 other counties, including Orange, are said to be abnormally dry.

Even though many counties are facing extreme drought conditions, many North Carolinians aren't sure about how severely the state is being affected.

Gwen Smith, a technical assistant at Davis Library, said the recent rainfall could be why there's confusion.

"People think that since we had some rain the lakes are replenished and so they don't have to think about the water table," she said.

Brian Long, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, said that farmers are being heavily affected by the drought and that officials fear that the state will be right back where it was a year ago if the dry spell continues.

"It could be devastating to farmers across the state," he said. Long also said that farmers are

taking measures to reduce the impact they will feel from the drought by setting up irrigation systems to combat the lack of rain and also by re-evaluating the size of their herds.

"Some cattle are being taken to the market earlier or farmers are taking more cattle than they usually would, so that they aren't looking at the prospect of having more animals going into the fall and winter," Long said.

UNC senior Rebecca Yoder said she thinks that people aren't as aware about the drought because they tend to be concerned with what's going on in their part of the state, which can signal ignorance of the "bigger picture."

Woody Yonts, chair of the Drought Management Advisory Council, warned that even though reservoirs in most of North Carolina are full, abnormally high temperatures and a rainfall deficit may cause a reappearance of the drought, even in counties not currently experiencing a severe drought.

"We want to make sure they're following very prudent means when using water," he said.

"We should be using less water in our houses even when there isn't a drought to be better prepared for these situations," Yonts said.

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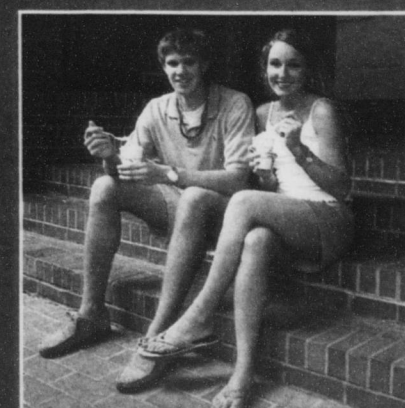
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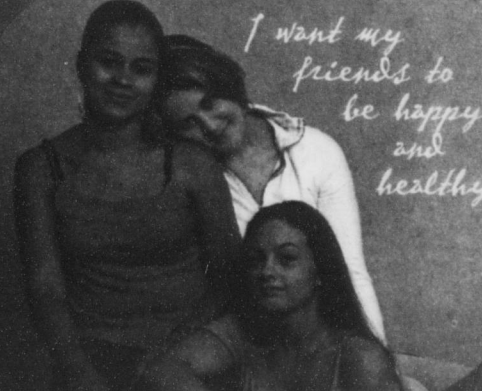
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