

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Today is last day to cancel meal plans without charge

Today is the last day to cancel a Carolina Dining Services meal plan for the fall semester.

Cancellations for the spring semester must be made between Oct. 21 and Dec. 12.

Cancellations will be charged to a student's account.

Labor Day weekend closes campus buildings earlier

■ Carolina Union: Open Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday.

■ Rams Head Rec Center, Student Rec Center, Woollen and Fetzer gyms: Closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

■ Top of Lenoir: Closed Saturday and Sunday. Open Monday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

■ Rams Head Dining Hall: Open normal hours Saturday and Sunday. Open Monday 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

■ Undergraduate Library: Open Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Opens Monday at 7 p.m.

■ Davis Library: Open Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Monday noon to midnight.

CITY BRIEFS

Tennis star charged with two more felony offenses

The former UNC tennis player who is charged with hitting two students with his car while driving drunk will face two additional felony counts in connection with the incident.

Chris Kearney, a junior from Irvine, California, was charged Thursday with two felony counts of serious injury by vehicle.

One victim's pelvis was broken and the other had a compound fracture in each leg, Police Attorney Terrie Gale said.

The crime which Kearney was charged with is fairly new in the state, and this may be the first time it has been applied in Chapel Hill, Gale said.

"None of us can remember ever having charged this before," she said.

Kearney had a 0.18 blood alcohol concentration when he was arrested Aug. 17 after trying to walk away from the car he totaled.

OWASA plans to use prices to encourage conservation

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors gave the go-ahead for public feedback on changes to Water Conservation Standards on Thursday.

The Natural Resources and Technical Systems committee and staff have been revising the present standards, adopted in 2003, in response to the past year's drought.

The newly drafted standards emphasize water pricing as a key conservation strategy. They have also been greatly simplified.

Visit City News at dailytarheel.com for the full story.

Local water reservoirs rise from Tropical Storm Fay rain

University Lake rose five feet Wednesday in the wake of the remnants of Tropical Storm Fay.

The lake, which supplies much of the water for Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

As of Thursday, the lakes that the Orange Water and Sewer Authority uses are 70 percent full.

In the extreme drought of 2002, the lakes were 28 percent full by Aug. 28, according to an OWASA press release.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Greg Little a candidate for nation's best running back

North Carolina running back Greg Little has been named a candidate for the 2008 Doak Walker Award, given to the nation's top college running back.

Little will be the starting tail back for UNC's 2008 campaign after starting the last two games of last season at the position.

He ran for 300 yards and two scores on 59 carries and had 13 catches for 99 yards and a receiving touchdown.

N.C. State QB leaves game against USC on stretcher

N.C. State quarterback Russell Wilson, starting in his first game Thursday against South Carolina, was taken off the field in a stretcher after he was hit in the first quarter.

Wilson's head hit the knee of a USC player after he was tackled, and his neck was wrenched to the side.

He was examined and carted off the field, moving his hands and giving a thumbs up.

Wilson was taken to the hospital for examination.

— From staff and wire reports

Trustees approve third plan

ASG leader pledges reform

BY MATTHEW PRICE
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

For the planners and designers charged with envisioning Carolina North's first impression, the third time was the charm.

Despite some reservations, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously Thursday to adopt a design for the Innovation Center, the first building proposed for the satellite research campus.

Trustees had criticized and rejected designs in January and July, expressing concerns that the building lacked impact and would not allow enough creative flexibility for Carolina North.

The new building plan integrates brick masonry and trees around lab and office space.

It features a more modern wall of glass and metal around the building's entrance.

Anna Wu, director of facilities planning who presented at the 45-minute meeting, said the changes reflected the look of other campus buildings like the FedEx Global Education Center.

"We want the architecture of this campus to be very forward-looking, but we always want people to know they're on Carolina's campus," she said.

But though the trustees voted to approve the plan presented Thursday, several members continued to express their concerns about how the building will fit into the larger context of the satellite campus.

"My concern today and from the beginning has been about the process of building this building," Trustee Rusty Carter said at the meeting. "Due diligence has not yet been done to determine what this campus is going to be."

Carter added that his support of the Innovation Center's design depended on the building's future design flexibility.

"It will not launch a style, design or concept that has yet to be discussed by this board," he said, referring to the Innovation Center. "And with that parenthetical, I support this building."

Trustee Paul Fulton said he felt that improvements had been made since the July design, but remained wary about rushing to approve the

design.

"I really question how the first version of this building got to the board in the first place," Fulton said at the meeting. "My confidence is really shaken."

Overall, Wu said the trustees' debates about the Innovation Center would be reflected in future design discussions for Carolina North.

"I imagine there will be a lot of interesting conversations moving forward about how the campus should look," she said.

"I think that's very healthy, and it's something all campuses have to deal with."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

"They focus on being a part of the community. It's very tight-knit. It promotes getting people to go out and do something different." JENNI NORMAN, UNC GRADUATE STUDENT



Headlining the Dirty South Improv comedy show, John Loftin performs his act "Mark Twain is in the House." The DSI Comedy Theater in Carrboro has shows every Thursday, offering interactive and relevant routines. "Even though it's smarter, it's still funny," Russell Johnson.

EVERYBODY STAND UP

Improv comedians engage audience with jokes

BY DANNY STAINKAMP
SENIOR WRITER

Against a black brick backdrop, an octet of stand-up comics delivered a mix of topical humor, stand-alone zingers and ironic impressions to giggling audience members.

College students and novice comedians proffered their quirky take on reality along with dapper-dressed, silver-haired jokesters in Thursday's sets, which ranged from four to 15 minutes on Thursday at the Dirty South Improv Comedy Theater in Carrboro.

Performers Marc Kennedy, Russell Johnson, Mary Sasson, RC Anderson, John Boni, Kelly Crisp and John Loftin were introduced by DSI owner and Executive Producer Zach Ward, who mastered the ceremony and peppered in a few jokes of his own.

The subject matter in the show was

diverse. The funny fare ranged from Planned Parenthood to poop jokes to feminine hygiene to lactose intolerance to the NRA, all delivered with conversational ease.

DTH ONLINE

Watch all six performances and vote for your favorite.

Jeff Brennan, who sat in the front row, was not fazed to find himself as a punch line catalyst.

"It was harmless. A lot of people are scared about being put on the spot," Brennan said. "But to me, it's not intimidating."

Brennan said the relaxed air of the show resulted from the skillful tactics with which the comedians approach the audience.

"It's just an amazing thing to have in Carrboro, it's like a world-class theater in our own backyard," Brennan said. "I've been really impressed with everything I've seen."

Reid Johnson, an employee at the Center for the Study of the American South, said he too got this sense of world-class comedy, due to a thoughtful approach to the material.

"It's not just race and sex jokes," Johnson said. "They're not just playing to the lowest common denominator."

But Johnson added that although he doesn't think the jokes are low-brow, he also doesn't find the comedians pretentious.

"Even though it's smarter, it's still funny," Johnson said. "It's not too high-handed."

The honesty of the performers appealed to Maria Albani, a UNC Hospitals employee.

"I could just imagine that that's what she's like in real life. You could tell she wasn't just

SEE STANDUP, PAGE 5

N.C. delegates reflect on DNC

State's participants express unity

BY ARIEL ZIRULNICK
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The 2008 Democratic National Convention wrapped up Thursday night with Barack Obama's acceptance speech, and the N.C. delegation is on its way home.

In four days, the convention body finalized its party's platform, nominated a president and vice president and made every attempt to unify a party that endured a long and sometimes bitter primary race.



'Totally in alignment'

A nationwide concern was whether the party would be able to unify behind Barack Obama when so many Democrats had strongly supported Sen. Hillary Clinton's candidacy.

However, speeches by Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and her call for acclamation on Obama's nomination eased the concerns.

North Carolina sent 134 delegates to the convention. About one-third of them pledged to Clinton. Concern

about a split varied among delegates, with some discounting it entirely.

N.C. Democratic Party Vice Chairwoman Dannie Montgomery, an unpledged delegate who supported Obama, said she had some misgivings — until she arrived in Denver and saw the unity that emerged.

And N.C. Democratic Party Chairman Jerry Meek said he never saw anything that indicated the bitter months that were behind them.

"I don't know, having interacted with these delegates for a whole week, if I'd even know who was for who," he said. "We're here as one delegation, and you don't hear any talk about Clinton versus Obama."

A Chapel Hill Clinton delegate agreed that it mattered very little by the time the convention rolled around although the defeat may have stung awhile.

"(Now) you will find that they're 100-percent behind Barack Obama," he said.

U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., was an unpledged delegate who endorsed Obama a few days before the May 6 primary. He brushed aside the concerns about unity, saying that bitter contests were common and the parties typically recovered.

"We're here as one delegation, and you don't hear any talk about Clinton versus Obama."

JERRY MEEK, N.C. DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN

"We go through contested primaries all the time and we get over it and we realize that what unifies us is much more important than what divides us," he said.

The Clintons' displays Tuesday and Wednesday night were the crucial moments to heal any remaining rifts, Montgomery said.

"That sort of sealed the deal for it," she said. "We are totally in alignment."

N.C. has a role in November

Price said that the last time North Carolina got national attention in a presidential election was in 1992, during Bill Clinton's first run for president.

"There's no question that we are in the hunt this time," he said. "We're not used to that in our state."

SEE CONVENTION, PAGE 5

Recruiters work hard to make rush a success

BY MARYANN BARONE
STAFF WRITER

Behind-the-scenes work to get sorority recruitment under way is a task few University students see.

But to those involved, the long days of planning and practice start long before potential new members get on campus.

Each sorority's recruitment chairwoman was appointed in early 2008.

With the help of their chapter presidents and alumna advisers, organizers

start planning. During the spring, some chapters hold a workshop to show members what recruitment entails.

Some members cut summer breaks short to move in up to a week early to prepare for recruitment.

Recruitment practices sometimes last six hours, said Charlotte Egerton, Panhellenic vice president of recruitment.

"It sounds like a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun work," she said.

There are 12 sororities in UNC's Panhellenic Council, the largest women's organization at UNC.

Ten of them will go through formal recruitment in the coming weeks, while associate member chapters Pi Beta Chi and Sigma Rho Lambda follow different processes.

Egerton said more potential new members have signed up this year than last year. More first-year girls have been interested in recruitment, too.

This year, there are about 650 potential new members, up from 600 last year, said Jenny Levering, assistant dean of students for fraternity and sorority life. Of those 600, 550 joined a chapter.

Each sorority puts its own spin on recruitment — whether with themes for recruitment, skits or information on various aspects of the sorority.

"Every house is different from how they do it," said Julie Sass, Panhellenic vice president of special events. "It's a lot of work going on."

Each Panhellenic chapter is allotted \$1,800 for decorations, food and other provisions for the recruitment rounds, Egerton said.

Potential new members pay a \$45 registration fee, which covers logistics and planning for recruitment.

Organizers said they hope the

SEE RUSH, PAGE 5