

CAMPUS BRIEFS
Graduate Senate meets to elect committee members

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation Senate met Thursday for the first time this year. The body elected members to its committees and passed three bills. The group represents graduate students in all the academic departments, including the professional schools. One representative is elected from each department to serve on the senate. Monika Schneider, vice president of internal affairs for GPSF, spoke of the importance of having a group to represent graduate students on campus. "Our voice is not heard as loudly," she said. This year the GPSF cabinet wants to expand public service work they are doing, said GPSF President Cindy Spurlock. They hope to meet with the Campus Y to create shared activities between graduate students and undergraduates.

Cancer researchers assist innovative research study

Scientists at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center helped release a new research study that could help with further brain cancer research. The findings describe new genetic mutations that could help diagnosis and treatment of glioblastoma, the common form of brain cancer. The research identified three genetic mutations and mapped major gene interaction pathways that are disrupted in this type of brain cancer.

CITY BRIEFS
Police investigating theft of three Hondas this week

A Honda Accord was reported stolen Wednesday, just days after two Accords were stolen from the same neighborhood, according to Chapel Hill police reports. The first two stolen Accords — a 1994 blue vehicle, and a 1995 gold — were reported stolen Monday from Flemington Road in Chapel Hill.

The attempted theft of a third car — a 2000 silver model — occurred Monday at a parking lot on nearby Hamilton Road. The Accord reported stolen Wednesday — a green 1995 model — also was parked on Hamilton Road and is valued at \$8,000, reports state. Flemington and Hamilton roads are located east of the University's main campus, near Glen Lennox neighborhood.

Chapel Hill police Spokesman Lt. Kevin Gunter said the theft of three such similar cars in the same area is unusual, and the department is investigating to see if the thefts are linked. "We're looking at obviously trying to connect the dots," he said. "I don't think we've ever seen that before. Our investigators are looking at different leads."

Orange on pace for more rabies cases than last year

Orange County received a positive test of a raccoon for rabies Thursday. It was the 15th identified rabies case in the county this year, according to a press release from Orange County Animal Services. On Sept. 2, the raccoon was found after a Hillsborough resident heard a dog barking outside. A neighbor killed the raccoon and called animal control. There were 19 positive rabies test in 2007 and 27 in 2006, according to the release.

STATE BRIEFS
Obama campaign announces N.C. Republican supporters

Barack Obama's N.C. campaign disclosed Thursday the support of about 200 N.C. Republicans for Obama's presidential candidacy. The announcement was made on a conference call where three Republicans voting Democrat for the first time in 2008 cited their reasons for supporting Obama. Read more about the announcement at blogs.dailytarheel.com.

UNC-C launching hurricane research in Brunswick Co.

UNC-Charlotte is working with a Chapel Hill-based research company to increase the information available about tornadoes that spin off from hurricanes that make landfall. The addition of three new hurricane monitoring sites launched by UNC-C brings the total number of sites in Brunswick County to 11. Information from the sites will be used to create a weather map for the county. Go to www.dailytarheel.com to read the story.

— From staff and wire reports

BOE chairman new to board

Others may apply until 5 p.m. today

BY KEVIN KILEY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Some roles on campus require special experience, and the Board of Elections chairman has traditionally been one of those roles. But lack of interest from the board caused student government to look elsewhere for this year's chairman. Sophomore Ryan Morgan, who was appointed to head the board last spring, is the second consecutive sophomore chairman and took the position without previously serving on the board. "I think a new perspective is always good," Morgan said. Applications to serve on the board

will be accepted until 5 p.m. today. Six to 10 members will be selected. The board is responsible for organizing and overseeing the elections process and enforcing sections of the election law in the Student Code. Most chairmen are selected from the board. Officials said they usually look within the board for applicants but received none in the spring. "Honestly, nobody from the board applied," said Todd Dalrymple, the student body vice president. Morgan said he applied without knowing that no board members had applied. Last year's elections board chairman, junior Mitchell Capriglione,

said the job was a large responsibility and he didn't have time this year. "I just wanted to spend a little more time on schoolwork," he said. Matt Spivey, last year's vice chairman, also said other commitments kept him from seeking the position. Morgan successfully argued a case before the Student Supreme Court about election law last year as the campaign manager for a disqualified candidate. Capriglione said that demonstrates his knowledge of the Code. "He's coming into the office with more knowledge of the Code than I had when I took office," Capriglione said, who served as a first-year. But having someone come from outside the board with that kind of knowledge is an anomaly, he said.

"This is one of the first times, if not the first, that the chairman has not been on the board before," Capriglione said. The Student Code states that Board of Elections chairmen should have at least one semester of experience on the board. But it allows Student Congress to approve an inexperienced chairman with a two-thirds majority. Morgan said he has spent the past week talking with potential student body president candidates to try to clarify sections of the Code. The talks are in response to several candidates holding large interest meetings, which could violate early campaigning restrictions, depend-

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State's leaders stump at home

Candidates give up delegate seats

BY ARIEL ZIRULNICK
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The country's attention was focused on Denver and Minneapolis-St. Paul the last two weeks, but N.C. candidates opted out of attending their parties' national conventions. The senatorial and gubernatorial candidates instead campaigned in North Carolina. Staying home from the convention is a growing trend, said UNC journalism professor Ferrel Guillory. "One of the most precious things a candidate has is his or her own time," he said. "You've got to calculate whether taking four or five days to go to a convention — are you spending that time well? Or should you spend it here, campaigning?"

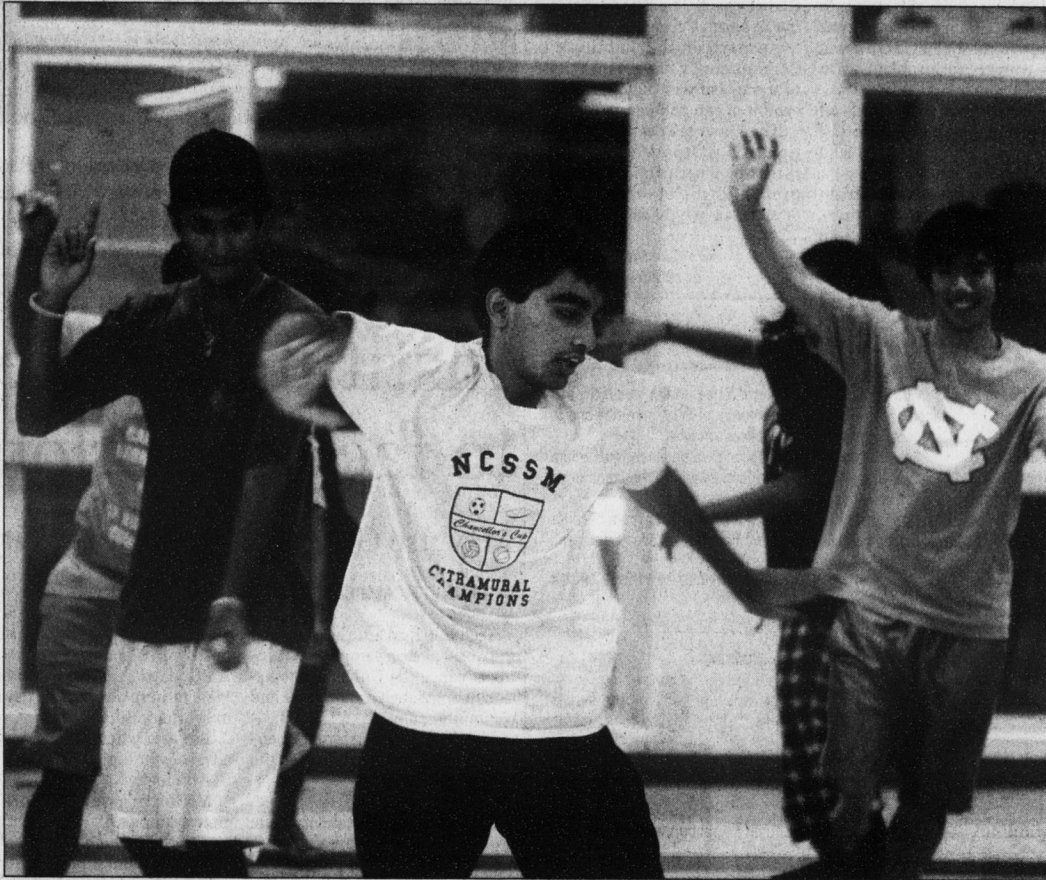
And as participation in state primaries grows, the convention has become an official nomination ceremony in favor of a candidate who has already been chosen. "It's not as if they're going to go to Denver or St. Paul and have a key role in deciding whose going to be the next president," Guillory said. Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory, Republican candidate for governor, was a convention delegate but chose to spend the week in the state instead. The campaign could not be reached for an explanation.

Reasons for skipping the conventions vary, but maintaining distance from the party establishment is often a big one, Guillory said. The unpopularity of the George W. Bush administration has been cited widely as a possible reason why many Republicans up for reelection stayed away this year. But campaign staff for Republican U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole — who faces a re-election battle against N.C. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-Guilford — denied that had anything to do with their decision to opt out. Dole has attended several conventions in the past and was a speaker one year.

"She's got a pretty packed schedule this week, which is why we had to decline. ... No political motivation there at all," said Hogan Gidley, the campaign's press secretary. He stressed that it was not an attempt to distance Dole from the unpopular administration of President Bush. But Gidley did say that Dole opted to stay in the state to make sure North Carolinians were familiar with the work she's done. "She knows that this is an important election and she wants to make sure that people in the state remember what she's accomplished," he said.

The Hagan campaign said the decision to not attend was made awhile ago, when they realized how close it was to the election. "She got seven more days of meeting and greeting folks," said Kay Hagan's Communications Director

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DTH/DANIEL VAN NIEKERK

First-year student Prashant Angara (middle), performs a routine at tryouts for the Bhangra Elite dance group. "Tryouts are a little harder than I thought," said Angara, who started Bhangra dancing in high school. "It was the hardest routine I have ever done."

WORKING UP TO ELITE

Students audition for Bhangra dance group

BY NATE HEWITT
FEATURES EDITOR

About 50 students leaped, raised their arms, cocked their hips and dropped to the floor in one fluid motion. Each vying for one of about 25 positions in the dance group Bhangra Elite at a tryout Thursday. Senior Amy Patel said she was inspired to try out by her roommate, who has been on the team for three years. "I've been watching them perform for years," she said. "It could give me that cultural activity that everyone needs." Students learned the dance for the tryout on Tuesday and practiced it Wednesday. And unlike previous years, group administrators said there was virtually no drop-off after the two practice days. Administrators said they planned to select

new members immediately after the tryout. "The longer you wait, the less you remember," member Nikita Goel said. "It's good to go ahead and make the decision and not make them have to wait." "Anyone can do it; just have enthusiasm and the willingness to learn," Goel said. "The most important thing is that you really have a passion for the music and the culture." Generally, only about 15 dancers perform at a time and travel to competitions. But interest in the group is growing, member Anurag Satsangi said. "Bhangra's all over YouTube," he said. "We're up there every time there's a competition." Bhangra dancers move to the beat of a two-sided barrel drum, called a dhol. "We use it to follow the tempo," said Anish Thakkar, who plays during performances. "It maintains the beat of the song and determines

the kinds of moves we make." But performing completely live often proves difficult, group captain Angad Patheja said. "We tend to mix a bunch of music tracks to perform to and use the drums when we can." Group members perform in about five competitions a year. They have traveled to Washington, Atlanta and Richmond, Va., as well as other places. The folk dance, which has now evolved into a form of pop expression, has spread to various parts of the globe, notably featured in collegiate competitions. The Elite will perform dual shows on Oct. 4 for events sponsored by the senior marshals and Masala, UNC's multicultural group. The group's favorite competition will come in April with the Bhangra Blowout in D.C., which is confined to college groups. The group also will sponsor Bhangra Sutra in February, an annual event that showcases

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Retirement after 40 years

Lenoir employee recalls changes

BY DANIELLE ADAMS
STAFF WRITER

Esther Jeffries, a 40-year UNC employee, says working with people has always been her bread and butter. Today is the last day of work for the 75-year-old cashier, who has seen thousands pass through UNC in her time here. "This place is like a home to me," Jeffries said. "I've been here so long, and I've seen so many things change here. I'm getting older though, and my health is not as good as it once was, so I think it's about time." Having served as supervisor at the Student Union for seven years and a cashier at Lenoir Dining Hall for the remainder, Jeffries has seen her share of changes at UNC. When Jeffries was just starting her job, Lenoir was the only building near what used to be a parking lot. That parking lot is now the Pit. Jeffries said she even remembers seeing the construction of the Student Union. "A couple staff workers and I were leaving after our shifts one



DTH/KAITLIN MCKEOWN

Lenoir Dining Hall employee, Esther Jeffries, 75, is retiring after 40 years of work. "I didn't ever think I would be here for this long," she said. day at about 12 a.m., and the Union was in the process of being built," Jeffries said. "But when we came back at 3 p.m. the next afternoon, the Union had fallen in. They had to start all the way over." Buildings are not the only things that have changed, though. Jeffries said the major alterations are the actual students, from the way they dress to the manner in which they present themselves. As a single parent of five children, she said her motherly instincts always kick in when she sees the students. "I enjoy the kids, and I always look forward to the beginning of the year and seeing all the new faces and freshmen," Jeffries said. "I try to be like a mother to them since they're all new here. I guess

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Classical quartet part of younger generation

BY PHILLIP CROOK
STAFF WRITER

For those who say classical music is dying, September Prelude counters with the poster child for a younger generation of musicians. The four members of the Chiara String Quartet are in their early 30s, and while that may not sound very young, violinist Jonah Sirota said most quartets have spent decades performing together. "We're not young in the sense that we're new to this, but our perspective is generational," Sirota said. "If we're the new young face of classical music, then we're down with that." Presented by Carolina Performing Arts, Duke Performances and the Raleigh Chamber Music Guild, September Prelude's fifth year demands a large repertoire and stamina from the quartet. The concert today in Memorial Hall is the first of three in the Triangle this weekend, each offering listeners something new each time. Tim Carter, chairman of the music department, said today's program is a particular treat for

SEE THE SHOW
Time: 8 p.m. today
Location: Memorial Hall
Info: carolinaperformingarts.org

audience members with its inclusion of a piece by a cutting-edge Chinese-born American composer. "It's quite a coup for us to have this piece," Carter said. "It's deeply rooted in different traditions to produce a very post-modern, complex image. It places the whole program in a new context." Zhou Long's "Song of the Ch'in" fuses Eastern and Western styles to create an imitation of a Chinese folk instrument by plucking on the strings of the viola, violin and cello. Music professor Richard Luby said the Chiara String Quartet is admired for championing alternative and contemporary music. "They're known for bringing music to new venues, like clubs and restaurants, but in a classy way," Luby said. Sirota said part of the reason to perform in such venues is to appeal

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