

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Tickets still on sale for next week's Homecoming shows

Students who camped out for tickets to The Avett Brothers were able to get better seats in Memorial Hall.

But the show didn't sell out. As of 3:30 p.m. Wednesday there were still 99 tickets available, according to the Memorial Hall box office.

More than 500 Gym Class Heroes tickets also were still available. Sophomore Nathan Creger said he thought tickets were gone.

"People just assumed that there would be none left," he said. "There's a problem with communication."

And Tom Allin, Carolina Union Activities Board president, said the communication problem was being worked on.

"We're doing our best to get the word out that tickets are still available for both shows."

Students can purchase tickets for the Homecoming concerts at the Union Box office or at the Memorial Hall box office.

UNC squad takes second in national ROTC competition

An Army ROTC group composed of 10 students took second place in its division in a Ranger Challenge over the weekend.

The group traveled to Fort Pickett, Va. Twenty-one ROTC teams participated in the competition, and the UNC squad competed against nine others.

The teams took physical and written tests, then performed night navigation Friday.

Saturday, team members were tested individually in first aid, marksmanship, grenade accuracy and radio procedures.

Chemistry professor named December ceremony speaker

The University's commencement speaker selection committee named Valerie Ashby, a chemistry professor specializing in biomaterials, December's commencement speaker.

"Valerie Ashby is among our best teachers — in the classroom and the lab," said Chancellor Holden Thorp in a press release. "She is an inspirational colleague and mentor and a leader in biomaterials research. Highly regarded by her students and colleagues alike, she will bring an excellent and timely message to our graduates in December."

Ashby, a UNC alumna, has been named one of the top 12 young female chemists in the country by the American Chemical Society.

Ashby teaches organic chemistry, as well as introductory chemistry.

Thorp will preside at the Dec. 14 ceremony at 2 p.m. in the Dean E. Smith Center.

CITY BRIEFS

Downtown Partnership to hold public parking forum

The Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership will hold a public forum tonight to gather input about parking.

The discussion will focus on the downtown parking study, which was presented earlier this month.

Parking has been identified as one of the top-five issues affecting the area by downtown business owners, residents and visitors.

The study includes an assessment of available parking, an analysis of parking supply and demand and parking promotions. It also makes recommendations for how to improve parking downtown.

The forum will be held at University Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m. If unable to attend, call 967-9440 to make comments.

Three arrested in county for possession of cocaine

The Orange County and Chatham County sheriff's offices arrested three people Tuesday for the possession of cocaine.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office Drug Investigators searched lot No. 12 in a southern Orange County mobile home and seized more than eight ounces of cocaine and about \$20,000 in cash.

Both Raphael Puga Martinez, 32, and Blanca Estela Lopez-Espinoza, 29, were arrested on charges of trafficking cocaine, possession with intent to sell and maintaining a place to keep controlled substances.

During the search, investigators received information which led to 200 Barnes St. in Carrboro. At this apartment, Bernice Lopez-Espinoza, 19, was found with over seven ounces of cocaine.

She was charged with possession with intent to sell, maintaining a place to keep controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia.

All three were expected in court Wednesday.

-From staff and wire reports

Increases may go to students

Could fund undergraduate research

BY MEGHAN PRICHARD
STAFF WRITER

This year's student tuition increases could go toward a venture fund for undergraduate excellence, providing money for anything from special projects to first-year discussion groups.

This year the tuition and fee advisory task force has discussed creating this new program and updating old ones to improve the undergraduate experience and recruit top-performing high school students — one of Chancellor Holden Thorp's top priorities.

The task force discussed the idea of a venture fund at its Oct. 20 meeting.

The fund's purpose has not been clearly delineated, but task force members said the fund would support students or faculty with original ideas.

"I'm thinking more of a venture fund as a way of supporting innovation," said Steve Farmer, director of undergraduate admissions. He added that the fund could be a selling point in student recruitment.

He said the fund would not require much money, but he was not sure of an exact amount. Farmer also emphasized the importance of connecting new students with existing opportunities or creating new ones.

He said one priority was inviting students to take part in undergraduate research. "One idea that I think has come up in conversations is an idea of learning groups in the first year that are focused on great problems," Farmer said.

He gave the example of a pre-medical student joining a learning group to discuss issues of public health.

But potential tuition increases won't just support this fund. Money will go to faculty raises and graduate financial aid.

The committee also is considering giving more money to academic advising and undergraduate financial aid.

Trustee John Ellison said the UNC Board of Trustees set aside some of last year's money for advising after hearing that its services needed improvement.

"We'd gotten feedback from the students and particularly from Eve (Carson) that students were upset with the quality of the advising, and the amount of resources that the administration had to put towards that was limited," he said.

Ellison said he looks forward to hearing the task force's ideas about where the money should go.

"I'm totally open as to what the recommendations to the trustees should be," he said. "I really want to listen to what the committee has to say."

Ellison added that he would not support any recommendations that he felt did not serve students' interests.

"I think the tuition increases should be restricted to things that enhance the quality of the students' experience at UNC," Ellison said.

Farmer also said any increases must stay focused on moving the University forward.

"We want to make sure that whether times are good or if times are bad we are continually improving upon students' experience."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Raynor holding student forum

Input sought on improving UNC

BY MEERA JAGANNATHAN
STAFF WRITER

Trustees John Ellison and J.J. Raynor will hold a forum today at 2 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. The event is part of their ongoing project called "Carolina: Best Place to Teach, Learn and Discover."

Raynor, who is also student body president, answered questions about the event that she hopes will stimulate dialogue on areas in which the University can improve.

Q: Why should students come?

Raynor: Any idea you put out there will be recorded and put into the academic plan. For instance, the last time we did the academic plan, they really pushed the first-year seminars, and now we have first-year seminars.

It also goes into the next capital campaign, so the ideas that we're getting from the forum are going to be the ideas that (Vice Chancellor for University Advancement) Matt Kupec and the Office of Development raise money for.

If you need a change on campus, this is the way to make that change happen. And a lot of these changes are going to be lasting, so they're going to be here long after you're gone.

Q: What sort of issues should students present?

A: What matters to them. We really want the student perspective. I don't think that the University gets to hear it as often as it needs to. This is the chance for students to represent what they want and what they think needs to happen.

Q: How should students prepare?

A: They should really think about what they like about Chapel Hill, what they think we need to change and what they think would add value to their degree that we're not already doing.

But really, we don't want people to feel like they have to do a lot of prep work. We just want their impressions and we don't want them to feel intimidated. We know that students are going to have creative ideas about how we can make Carolina better.

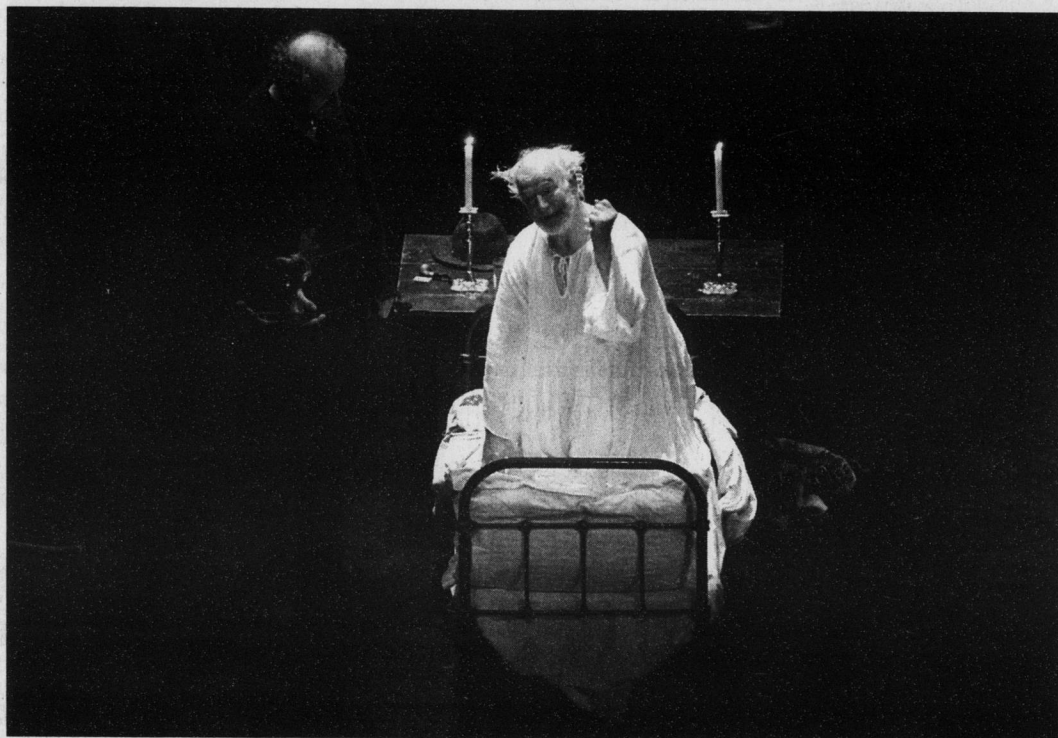
Q: What is the forum's format?

A: We're basically going to have an open mic. People can come up and present their ideas and we'll have someone taking notes. It's just an open forum for people to tell us what they want.

Q: What are your hopes for the forum?

A: I really hope that we'll be able to get some creative ideas to move us forward. I think that's what students are really good at — coming up with ideas that other people haven't really thought of yet. This forum is for faculty, staff and students, and I really want everyone to hear what everyone else has to say.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



A tramp (left), played by Peter Gowen, listens to Dan Burke, played by Tom Hickey, during "The Shadow of The Glen" at Memorial Hall. The play is one of two performances by the Druid Theatre Company. The group also performs "The Playboy of the Western World."

TIME TRAVELING

Druid Theatre Co. captures Irish heritage

BY PHILLIP CROOK
STAFF WRITER

Druid Theatre Company's productions of "The Shadow of the Glen" and "The Playboy of the Western World" play to audience's preconceptions about Irish culture, largely turning them on their heads through skilled comedy.

The works, both by Ireland's benchmark classical playwright John Millington Synge, simmer, and sometimes boil over, in an emotional recipe of strife and humor.

The juxtaposition of the struggles of early 20th century life framed through comedy is enhanced by the company's crafted handling of the material.

Presented by Carolina Performing Arts, the plays each examine a female character's awakening to her identity in rural Ireland. Time traveling more than 100 years since each play's premiere, Synge's works connect with modern gender issues articulated in the cast members' performances.

As the curtain-riser to the evening's main production, the one-act "The Shadow of the Glen" provides an introduction to Synge's trademark language and style and to the issues raised in the second play.

"Shadow" is obligingly short, yet within the span of 30 minutes, the play traverses

complex thematic ground.

A wandering beggar takes refuge in a small cottage in County Wicklow, where he finds a woman sitting out the wake of her dead husband. The plot heightens when the believed-dead patriarch reveals himself to be alive, much to the dismay of his wife, Nora.

"The Playboy of the Western World," internationally recognized as Synge's greatest work, tells the story of Christy Mahon, a young man who runs away from his family farm. Christy arrives in County Mayo, where he charms the townspeople by spinning a wild tale of how he killed his father.

The local barmaid Pegeen Mike is captivated by Christy's story and his mysterious allure. The couple's romance is thrown into comedic havoc, made all the more complicated when Christy's father turns up alive in the town.

Audiences with little exposure to the Irish accent will likely find the production an aural puzzle.

It's the kind of production that makes audience members yearn for subtitles and, unfortunately, much of the humor is lost in the tangle of difficult language.

But despite the obvious accent barrier, Synge's humor manages to shine through,

THEATERREVIEW

THE SHADOW OF THE GLEN AND THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD
DRUID THEATRE COMPANY
WEDNESDAY



ATTEND TONIGHT'S SHOW

Time: 7:30 p.m. today
Location: Memorial Hall
Info: www.carolinaperformingarts.org

thanks to the precisely timed physicality and delivery of the casts.

Tom Hickey as Dan Burke in "Shadow" is a humorous portrait of a grouchy old man teetering on the edge of death, yet enlivened by fierce wit.

The three single village women harping for husbands in "Playboy" also earn laughs for their cooky fusion of girlish glee and witch-like swagger.

But audience members also will find pigments of meaning in "Shadow" and "Playboy."

That is, at least, the portions they can recognize as English.

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

McCrorry visits Chapel Hill

BY REBECCA PUTTMAN
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

In Mama Dip's back room, Republican gubernatorial candidate Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrorry made sure no one misunderstood his opponent.

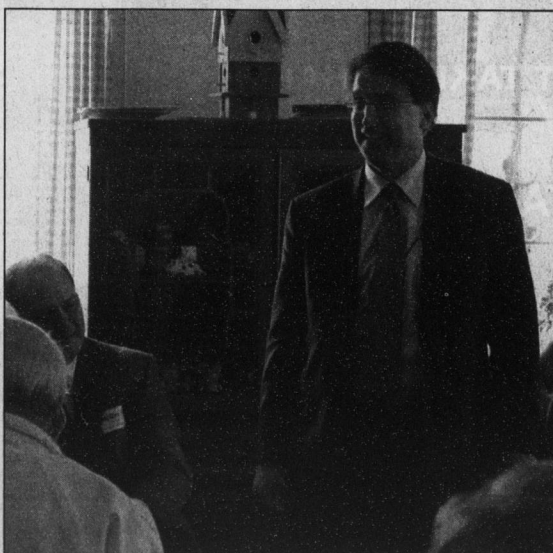
"(Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue) says one thing in Charlotte and another thing somewhere else," he said about his Democratic opponent.



Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton introduced McCrorry on Wednesday at a supporters' breakfast, emphasizing that he is a Democrat endorsing a Republican.

"I've been impressed by the way he's stood up for good government in North Carolina," Chilton said.

Chilton accused the state government of being corrupt and power-hungry, and pointed to McCrorry as a leader who could change that.



Republican gubernatorial candidate Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrorry speaks to supporters at Mama Dip's about how he will clean up Raleigh.

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Students dance to beats of their own

BY NICK ANDERSEN
STAFF WRITER

Cassie Butler and Lucas Wood don't know each other. But that didn't stop them from dancing together in the center of Polk Place.

Sharing iPod headphones, dance moves and laughs, more than a dozen students gathered Wednesday afternoon for a silent disco put on by Carolina Union Activities Board's campus voice and exposure committees.

"The exposure committee is all about people getting together, building relationships through more personal events," said Butler, a chairwoman of the group.

"With the silent disco, we wanted people to get out of the box they build around themselves and have fun."

In a silent disco, dancers gather in a public space armed with iPods, earphones and a general disregard for social norms.

Silent discos have spread across Europe, Canada and the U.S. with

large-scale events in downtown areas of New York and Boston.

Wednesday's event was inspired in part by a silent disco tent held at Nashville's Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, said campus voice Chairwoman Gabriella Miyares.

"We wanted an event that would bring people together in creative self-expression," Miyares said. "I feel really liberated."

Social networking sites, such as Facebook, helped spread awareness about the movement.

"I saw the event on Facebook, and thought to myself, 'What a perfect excuse to get silly in public,'" sophomore Yasmeen Zamamiri said. "I just love to dance."

As the silent disco quietly raged on throughout the afternoon, passing students gave the dancers strange looks and cat calls.

"Are y'all in a Mac commercial?" one bemused student asked as he

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