

Carrboro elm tree scheduled for surgery

BY GAVIN WHITEHEAD
STAFF WRITER

Its leaves might be falling to the ground, but thanks to the efforts of the Carrboro Public Works Department, Carrboro Town Hall's historic elm tree won't follow suit anytime soon.

The tree, nationally recognized as a historic landmark, has become a symbol of the Carrboro community.

The elm is scheduled for surgery known as root invigoration, which allows the tree better access to nutrients. Surgical pruning will take place along with this process next week.

An ice storm in early 2003 caused considerable damage to the elm's crown and left its massive horizontal branches wider than the tree is tall. This prompted action from the town.

Public works put together a health plan in 2005 which consisted of first applying prescription fertilizer and then thoroughly mulching the tree and soil. The root invigoration is the next phase in the process.

These procedures aroused some

interest from residents.

"When the community sees people out working on the tree, they start to ask questions," Carrboro Public Works Director George Seiz said. He stressed that the tree was not in any danger, rather, steps were being taken just to keep the tree healthy.

"We're being proactive here rather than reactive," he said.

Paul Hellwig, landscaping and grounds supervisor for the town of Carrboro, echoed this sentiment.

"It's kind of like we're giving the tree vitamins," he said.

Under this towering elm, mounted on a small rock, is a plaque declaring the tree a historic landmark as approved in 1985 by the Elm Tree Research Institute of Harrisville, N.H.

To earn this title, an elm must have a circumference of more than eight feet, be healthy at the time of acceptance and stand at a place of some historical importance such as a battlefield or town hall.

"Elms are very majestic and grand," said Yvonne Spalthoff, assis-

tant director of the Elm Research Institute. "It's the tree that George Washington took control of the country under."

Carrboro's tree is one of 5,000 elm trees nationally recognized as historically significant, only eight of which are in North Carolina.

Hellwig described the tree as a symbol of the town.

He said it isn't uncommon to see residents sitting beneath its expansive branches to watch fireworks light the skies on July 4.

After several years of carefully monitoring the tree's progress, Carrboro arborists are ready to perform root invigoration. This process involves using a machine that removes air from the soil surrounding the tree, making it less dense and allowing the tree to grow new roots and better access nutrients.

Organic fertilizers will also be applied to the tree as well as a fresh coating of mulch.

This same procedure was successfully employed for two oaks in front

Elm tree health

A Carrboro elm tree is undergoing root invigoration to give the tree better access to nutrients. These practices will help the tree:

Root invigoration: Allowing a tree better access to nutrients by making the soil surrounding the tree less dense. Organic fertilizers also will be applied.

Pruning: Removing excess branches that don't have adequate exposure to sunlight and don't photosynthesize energy. These branches are dead weight the trunk has to support.

The entire process lasts about four hours and costs between \$700 and \$800.

of Weaver Street Market in 2005. Public works will plan its next course of action based on the elm's improvement after about a year.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.



DTH/KAITLIN MCKEOWN

The Carrboro Public Works Department's Landscaping and Grounds Division will begin doctoring an elm tree that stands in front of Town Hall.

Time warp again with WXYC

Famed '80s dance is this weekend

BY ASHLEY NICOLE LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

Walk like an Egyptian, do the Roger Rabbit or the running man.

Even those without any sweet '80s dance moves can still get geared up in neon leotards, puffy-sleeved prom dresses and parachute pants at WXYC's '80s Dance this Saturday at Cat's Cradle.

Each semester the UNC student and alumni-organized radio station sponsors the dance at Cat's Cradle. Originally featuring 1970s music, the dance has since time traveled to play music from the 1980s.

And though a new generation of students has come to UNC, the '80s tradition still prevails.

"At this point it's basically a tradition to have an '80s dance," said organizer and WXYC disc jockey Steph Russ. "It's just a genre that's accessible for a lot of people there are a lot of costume possibilities that are really fun."

Elliot Montpellier and David van Dokkum, DJs from the station, said music from the 1980s is easy for everyone to dance to.

"Music from the '80s is nostalgic for people, it's very identifiable," van Dokkum said.

"Even if you weren't alive in the '80s or familiar with this music, anyone can enjoy it," Montpellier said. "It's easy to dance to."

Russ said the Cat's Cradle usually fills up quickly at these dances.

"Sometimes we have people waiting outside even after we've filled it to capacity, and the people at the door will let a few people in at a time as others leave," she said.

With the established popularity of the event, WXYC encourages students to buy tickets in the Pit to avoid waiting in long lines at the door.

Sophomore Kristin Clow purchased her tickets in the Pit on Wednesday.

"I've missed the '80s dance the past two years," she said. "I always see the people walking their in their crazy costumes, and think, 'I want to go to that.'"

Russ said the station usually has

ATTEND THE DANCE

Time: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday
Location: Cat's Cradle
Info: www.wxyz.org
Cost: \$5 with a OneCard, \$8 without

several WXYC DJs to play music at the event. This year's dance will alternate between eight different DJs.

Although dressing up is not required, Russ said the station encourages people to do so by having a "craziest costume" competition.

"Some people do the aerobics Olivia Newton-John style with a side ponytail. Some people do Wendy and Steve style, some people do '80s glam with the big hair and the makeup," Russ said.

Though this year's first-year class was primarily born in the 1990s, many students said they are still enthusiastic about the hair, beats and ballads of the 1980s.

"I don't know how anyone can avoid it," Clow said. "The '80s have a staying power."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Input sought at open-mic forum

BY LEAH HUGHES
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President J.J. Raynor often talks about students owning their University. And on Wednesday she gave them a chance to shape its future.

About 80 students and faculty members attended an open-mic forum with Raynor and Trustee John Ellison on Thursday in Gerrard Hall.

The forum was the first campuswide event in the information-gathering process of "Carolina: Best Place to Teach, Learn and Discover." The goal of the initiative, led by the duo, is to develop suggestions to make UNC a stronger institution.

Raynor and Ellison have met with 350 to 400 administrators, faculty members and staff in small meetings to discuss the University.

Ellison opened the forum by stating the major changes in store for UNC. By 2017, the University plans to add 5,000 students and hire about 800 faculty members.

About 30 speakers eagerly offered thoughts about University issues.

"A lot of the ideas fall in overarching areas: recruitment, academics

and enrollment growth," Raynor said after the event.

Students said UNC needs more one-on-one interaction with potential students. They said building stronger relationships with high schools will ensure students consider UNC in their college search.

Some mentioned the specific need to recruit students from underrepresented areas of North Carolina. Often students with high academic standards at underprivileged high schools do not consider UNC a possibility, several students said.

But getting the students to UNC is just the first step, students said.

"Mr. Trustee, you spoke of retaining the value of our degree; let's put some value into it as well," said junior Richard Brooke.

Speakers said that once enrolled, students must be able to engage themselves with the University.

Students and faculty also expressed frustration with advising and the online course listing system.

They proposed adding a search function based on their interests, not just requirements the course fulfills.

They also suggested personal and better-informed advisors to give

insight into specific opportunities.

The recurring theme of safety also emerged. Students recognized Chancellor Holden Thorp's commitment to safety and offered some innovative ideas of their own.

Self-defense classes for males, a University-run taxi service and a buddy system were offered as options to bolster campus safety.

"I really liked some of the themes: the innovative approach to academics, more ownership for the entire community and increased transparency," Raynor said.

Both Raynor and Ellison said they were pleased with participants' enthusiasm.

"I know J.J. and I will end up talking about what great resources they are and how we must utilize them," Ellison said.

He and Raynor will begin narrowing down their information around the end of November. The next step includes deciding which recommendations will be financially feasible to submit to the Board of Trustees at their May meeting.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

LAWSON
FOR CONGRESS

Are You Voting for Change on November 4th?

ON THE ISSUES:

DAVID PRICE

WILLIAM (B.J.) LAWSON

The PATRIOT Act and Our Civil Liberties

• Voted for the PATRIOT Act... but he didn't stop there. He then voted for H.R. 1955, dubbed the "Thought Crime Bill." H.R. 1955 would make it a crime to promote viewpoints that the government deems to be wrong or "extremist."

• I oppose the PATRIOT Act and other unconstitutional legislation that erode our civil liberties.

Iraq War, Sanctions, and Militarism

• Has consistently voted for war throughout his Congressional career. His second largest PAC donor is the defense industry. He voted for sanctions in Iraq, which led to the death of an estimated 500,000 Iraqi children. His views on military intervention serve his corporate donors.

• I reject sanctions. Sanctions starve civilians, not the ruling elite. I also reject offensive war. War is a last resort to be used in self-defense, or defense of innocents.

Banking, Finance, and Debt

• Voted for the administration's \$850 billion Wall Street bailout, despite evidence that it will not reduce foreclosures or ease the credit crisis. Voted to deregulate the banking industry by repealing Glass Steagall regulations, thus encouraging banking institutions to become "too big to fail."

• I oppose deregulating a financial system that preys on working Americans with high interest rates and endless fees for lending money that it creates out of nothing. I oppose taxpayer-funded bailouts of Wall Street.

Energy, Environment, and Agriculture

• Voted for ethanol subsidies and destructive trade policies. His serving agricultural lobbyists results in widespread starvation in developing countries as local agriculture declines, and as we turn food into fuel.

• I support energy and agriculture solutions that encourage national security and community-based sustainability. I oppose subsidies that pillage our environment for short-term profit.

National Bio-Agro Defense Facility (NBAF)

• Supports NBAF. Chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee for the Department of Homeland Security, which will fund this facility. Even though the majority of people in the 4th district are against this facility, he chooses to stand with his lobbyist and corporate friends.

• I say no to bringing NBAF to our backyard.

Our Economy and Good Government

• Entered Congress in 1987. Today's Congress has only a 9% approval rating, allows lobbyists to write self-serving regulations, sneaks unrelated favors in bills destined to pass, and doesn't even read legislation before voting.

• I support principled government that lives within its means, respects the Constitution, and serves the people instead of corporate interests. Fixing our economy requires a government we can afford.

Be the Change. Vote

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 4
(You may vote for ONE)

David Price
DEMOCRAT

William (B.J.) Lawson
REPUBLICAN

"I support B.J. Lawson because he knows the strength of our community is within our community. B.J. is a principled leader who doesn't seek power, but seeks to empower others so we can create our own businesses, jobs, training programs, and opportunities. Join me in supporting one Republican for needed change in the 4th District."



Phillip Jackson
Democrat

"I'm 57 years old and I've never voted for a Republican. Until now. This is the first time I'll cast my vote for a Republican, because of BJ's stance on pre-emptive war, sound money, and the corrupted merger of government and business."



Mara Evans
Democrat

Paid for by Lawson for Congress (919) 481-1177

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