

Snow?

Today and Friday will be partly cloudy with a high near 40 and a low near 20. There is a chance of snow either tonight or tomorrow.

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Don Quixote would be stunned

The world's largest windmill is being planned for Howard's Knob, a knoll rising above Boone, to help alleviate electricity demand in the area. See page 4.

Please call us: 933-0245



I beg your pardon Using the camera's eye for perspective, this single cow of King Kong size looks like she might walk into at least one of those silos while she grazes on a farm along the Greensboro-Chapel Hill road. Staff photo by Allen Jernigan.

Local residents skeptical

PRC funds questioned

By MEREDITH CREWS
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The following is the last of two articles examining changes in the UNC department of dramatic art and the reactions of faculty, students and townspeople to those changes.

Controversy surrounding structural changes within the UNC department of dramatic art is not limited to the University community.

Chapel Hill residents also have expressed concern over the establishment of the Playmakers Repertory Company and the eventual elimination of the bachelor of fine arts degree.

Questions have been raised by local residents as to whether the University has the right to fund a professional repertory company like the PRC.

"This is a state institution, and programs within the University should be for students," Chapel Hill resident W. D. Perry said. "Programs for the repertory company, the money and effort, have been put into something that has no rightful place as the students don't get it. State tax money for the University should be for the training of undergraduate and graduate students."

But Joseph Coleman, PRC managing director, said the company was largely self-sufficient, thus not relying on state tax money.

"Over 65 percent of total operating costs come from box-office sales," Coleman said. "The other 35 percent of unearned income comes from grants, donations and community patrons. A very small amount comes from the University."

Coleman said the amount of money PRC receives from the University is declining as PRC becomes more self-sufficient.

According to John L. Temple, vice chancellor for business and finance, PRC received \$24,000 from the University during the 1976-77 academic year. PRC received \$12,000 from the University for the academic year 1977-1978.

Families, experts, friends demanding satisfactory answers to MIA probes

By DAVID CRAFT
Staff Writer

The slender, gray-haired woman was looking out the window when she saw a black station wagon coming down the street. The slowed and pulled into the driveway of her new brick home. The words "U.S. Air Force" were printed on the door in small letters.

Three men climbed out. Two of them were dressed in military uniforms. The third wore a suit. The woman recognized the third man. He was her minister.

When the bell rang, the woman opened the door and smiled.

"Hello, Mrs. Davis," the minister said. "May we come in?"

The woman stepped aside and motioned for the men to enter.

"It's Ed," one of the uniformed men said. There was a pause.

"We received a telegram from Randolph Air Force base this morning. We think your husband went down over Laos. We don't have any particulars. All we know is that he's missing."

Mrs. Edgar Davis sat on the sofa with her hands folded in her lap. She occasionally touched the silver bracelet on her left arm. The words "Maj. Edgar Felton Davis, Sept. 16, 1968" were printed on it.

She recounted the story that she has told to reporters and friends many times. Her husband was shot down while flying a reconnaissance mission over Laos. She has not heard from him since.

The University also provides "in-kind" support, according to Coleman. In-kind support means the University supplies facilities (such as the Playmakers Theatre) to the PRC.

The money from the University is used to sponsor a performance from the O'Neill Playwright Conference, according to PRC Business Manager Sandra Darnell. The performance this year will be *Uncommon Women and Others*.

But Perry maintained that PRC has no rightful place at the University.

"The UNC department (of dramatic art) is set up to work with students," Perry said. "Hiring of professional actors is not an obligation for training students; it's not the main goal of the University department."

Tom Kenan, another Chapel Hill resident, said structural changes within the department of dramatic art will eventually benefit both students and local residents.

"The department of dramatic art has made a long-range plan and this is the first part of the plan," Kenan said. "The emphasis has shifted away from students, but eventually there is involvement and the plan is better for students as well as theater-goers."

"I don't look at it as an immediate thing. I look at it as long down the road. With the opening of the Paul Green Theatre, there will be more focus on Chapel Hill and the department of dramatic art."

Tom Lambeth, UNC Board of Trustees chairperson, said changes within the department of dramatic art had not been brought before the board of trustees. He said he was unaware that the drama department was shifting its emphasis in the undergraduate program from acting to drama criticism and appreciation.

"I would not like to find that the physical education department was only turning out."

See PRC on page 2.

Davis remembers the day the three men came to her house in Kernersville.

"You couldn't say that I was shocked to hear that Felton—that's what I call him—had been shot down. He had talked with me several times before he left about the possibility that he wouldn't come back."

One of her first thoughts was whether the pilot had survived. "That was my biggest concern. Felton was the navigator, so I thought that maybe the pilot had survived and could tell me what happened."

She called Randolph A.F.B. the next morning. She was told that the pilot had lived but was in the hospital with serious injuries.

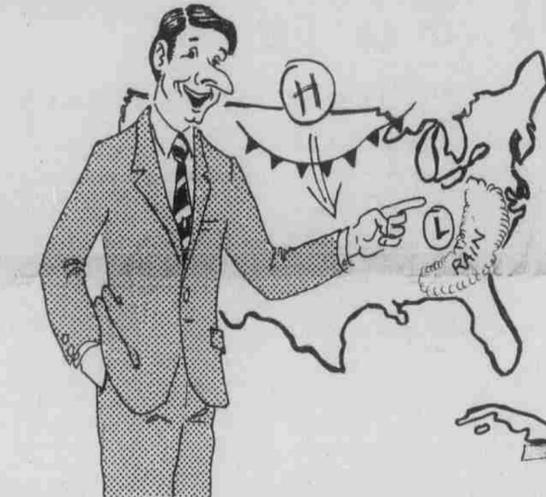
"I finally got in touch with him. He came and spent 10 days with us. I just wanted to meet him to satisfy my own mind."

"He remembers very little. He told me that he gave the command to eject twice as the plane was going down. He didn't know whether Felton was unconscious at the time or already out of the plane."

Davis has three children: Martha, 17, Buck, 16, and Alan, 14.

"I didn't have any trouble telling the children, but it was pretty hard for them to accept that their father was missing. If they had told us that he had been taken prisoner, at least there would have been some positive hope."

Davis had to learn how to answer countless questions from reporters. The Air Force would not let her disclose how and where her husband was missing during 1968 and 1969.



Weather services vie for reliability

By BETSY FLAGLER
Staff Writer

The National Weather Service Wednesday issued a winter storm watch for North Carolina for Thursday night and Friday. ACCU-Weather, a private service provided by a group of meteorologists at State College, Pa., forecast the same watch three days earlier.

The National Weather Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce and ACCU-Weather have access to the same maps, charts and other weather information, but Skip Carpenter, weather forecaster at WTVD-TV in Durham, says the

RHA hits phone rates in commission hearing

By JAY JENNINGS
Staff Writer

The UNC Residence Hall Association Wednesday objected to Southern Bell's proposed rate increases for Chapel Hill, presenting 40 pages of testimony to a hearing of the N.C. Utilities Commission in Raleigh.

Craig Brown, coordinator of the RHA offensive against the rate increases, noted that installation charges will have risen by 967 percent since March 1977 for new phones and 661 percent for phones already installed if the increases are approved.

"The massive size of these sudden increases," Brown said, "constitutes a severe — and unacceptable — financial burden upon UNC students."

A decision on the rate proposal is expected from the utilities commission by late March or early April. Brown said Wednesday it was his impression that the commission would not grant all of the installation charge increase.

Brown said he was encouraged also by a suggestion by Hugh Wells, N.C. Utilities Commission chairperson, that a committee be formed of representatives of Southern Bell, utilities commission and interested parties including RHA, if RHA is dissatisfied with the commission's decision. Before Southern Bell purchased the old Chapel Hill Telephone Co. on March 31,

1977, installation charges were \$7.50 for both new and already-installed telephones.

The charge now levied for hooking up an installed phone is 15.90, after a cost study by Southern Bell showed that \$4.10 of the \$20 charged returning dorm residents in Fall 1977 was inapplicable. The \$4.10 adjustment was made Nov. 7, 1977, after most students had already paid the \$20 fee.

"We hope that the utilities commission will consider a rebate of these overcharges (\$4.10)," Brown said.

The proposed rate hikes would more than triple the charge for hooking up an already-installed phone, to \$49.55. Installation of a new phone would cost \$72.50.

Approval of the rate hike will pose financial problems for the UNC Student Aid Office, according to Director William Geer. Based on the \$49.55 charge, Geer said the Student Aid Office will have to find and provide \$178,315 per year in additional funds for students dependent on its resources.

"This is a large amount of money," Geer said, "and it is not available."

The RHA testimony also included the results of an RHA survey taken of on-campus students. Based on 569 random responses, 20 percent of students reported delays of more than one week in telephone hook-up following their request for service. More than 20 percent said they had had

major problems with Southern Bell's service.

Mike Carson, Southern Bell district manager, said company records showed that 96 percent of the student requests for service were handled within five business days.

RHA also objected to charges for directory assistance calls. Southern Bell instituted a charge of 20 cents for each directory assistance call in excess of five calls per phone per month, a national policy by the Bell System to discourage frivolous use of directory assistance.

But RHA objected to the charges while a current phone directory is not available, as was the case during most of the fall semester.

"We have few objections to directory assistance charges when the student directory is relatively current," RHA President Bain Jones said.

"Individuals who dial '13' rather than find the number in the student phone book should pay, but it is unfair to ask students to pay for directory assistance when the student directory is less than 50 percent accurate by the beginning of fall semester prior to the issuance of new student directories."

Jones noted that the free Student Locator Service is unable to handle the number of inquiries common at the beginning of fall semester.

RHA asked the utilities commission to

See RHA on page 6.

Drama's scene shop moves to Paul Green Theatre

By ROBERT THOMASON
Staff Writer

After years of moving from building to building, the dramatic art department's scene shop apparently has found a permanent home in the Paul Green Theatre.

The scene shop moved from the Caldwell Annex, a two-story wooden structure torn down during the holiday vacation.

Theatrical set producers expect to find work a little easier and a lot more comfortable in the new location.

Caldwell Annex, which was located southeast of Caldwell Hall, near Hamilton Hall, was built during World War II as barracks for a Navy training program. In the early '60s, the scene shop moved into the annex and stayed there for more than a decade.

Production workers are not sad about the demise of the old building. The look forward to working in the new, more spacious scene shop. "The square footage is about the same, but there is more workable space," said Pete Baselici, technical director. "The old building had a support beam every 12 feet or so."

The new scene shop is triangular. Cinder block covers the inside wall, and a light gray brick is on the outside.

Baselici said the triangle shape has no functional purpose but is part of the architect's blueprint.

The new scene shop is about two-and-a-half stories high, allowing full-sized scenery to be constructed and viewed upright.

After the sets are produced, a vertical sliding door can be raised and the sets moved a short distance to the thrust stage of the Paul Green Theatre, if they are to be used on that stage and not on that of the Playmakers Theatre.

A small row of offices, repair shops and classrooms line a wall of the second-story level. The rooms are connected by a walkway, from which the main working area can be overlooked.

The shop was moved to the new facility Dec. 13. Much of the property is still in storage, although the machines, principally carpentry machines, are in the working area.

Last summer, when the North Campus heating loop became inoperative, the Caldwell Annex was the hardest hit. Thirty-two radiators burst, Baselici said. The University was forced to replace them, although officials knew the building was coming down. The new radiators went to the demolition contractor, according to Baselici.

The last days of the annex were plagued even after the radiators were replaced. "Workers would come over, two or three weeks before the closing of the building, with orders to turn off the heat and electricity," Baselici said.

Set builders complained of the cold in the old scene shop. "It was horrible," one said. "It was cold all the time."

Tommy Rezzuto, production adviser for the Playmakers Repertory Company and a dramatic art professor, recalled crew members finding scene paint frozen in the can. Rezzuto also remembered taking a freshman English class in the annex in 1948. That classroom later became his office.

The shop has been moved around a bit before settling in the annex. In 1948, the scene shop was housed in a building located where Carroll Hall now stands. Then it was moved into an old house along old fraternity row.

There, sets were constructed in the living room, Rezzuto said, while costumes were completed on the enclosed porch. Today, costumes are made in Graham Memorial.

In the early '50s the shop was moved to Caldwell Annex.

Alderman thinks Bell should pay

By EVELYN SAHR
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill Alderman Bob Epting is considering petitioning the state utilities commission to order Southern Bell to make some form of payment in lieu of the 1977 property taxes which the company has avoided paying.

Epting says that Southern Bell benefits from city services and that it charges subscribers rates as if it were paying local property taxes, even though it does not.

Through a tax loophole, almost 99 percent of the property Southern Bell purchased last March from the UNC-owned Chapel Hill Telephone Co. was assessed as tax-exempt for 1977. According to tax officials, Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carboro will lose approximately \$400,000 in tax revenues from Southern Bell because of the exemption.

Epting's petition, however, would not be aimed at directly recovering this lost tax revenue.

Epting suggests instead that Southern Bell either give a rebate to its subscribers or make a voluntary contribution in lieu of taxes.

"My bone of contention is this," Epting said. "Southern Bell's rate schedule, which is overseen by the utilities commission, allows them to realize a fair and reasonable amount of profits based on their receipts and expenses for the year. Southern Bell includes the payments for its property taxes in with its expenses when figuring this rate."

"However, for the year of 1977, Southern Bell isn't paying this tax money because of the loophole in the law. Consequently, Southern Bell's customers are helping Southern Bell pay for taxes which Southern Bell isn't even paying. This simply creates a huge windfall gain for Southern Bell," Epting said.

See ALDERMAN on page 3.



See MIA's on page 6.