

Wet it be

Mostly cloudy with a 50 per cent chance of rain by afternoon. High of 73; low tonight of 48.

The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Friday, October 23, 1981

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Battle of the beers

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Volume 99, Issue 84

News/Sports/Arts 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163

Nationwide study to rank top graduate programs

By ELAINE McCLATCHEY
DTH Staff Writer

The reputations of about 30 of the University's graduate programs will be put to the test this Spring when the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils releases a nationwide study ranking the country's top graduate programs.

Lyle Jones, the policy chairman for the upcoming study and former dean of the University's graduate school, said the goal of the new study was not to rank individual disciplines but to evaluate the programs on several levels. These levels included the quality of the professors and the program as judged by other professors in the same discipline, the number of grants and fellowships available in a program and the success rate of students after they receive their degrees.

The University fared well in past reports in 1966 and 1971. In the Roosevelt-Anderson report, a similar study released in 1971 by the American Council on Education, nine of approximately 30 University programs that were rated placed in the top 20 in the category of "strong and distinguished faculty." About 130 institutions were involved in the survey.

Those placing in the highest category for faculty quality were: classics-5th, English-12th, French-

14th, music-14th, history-16th, political science-10th, sociology-7th, botany-12th and population biology-17th. The University had 10 other disciplines in the second highest category, and one discipline placing in the third highest category.

The major focus of the Roosevelt-Anderson survey was on rating a graduate program in two areas — faculty quality and effectiveness of the program. Professors from across the nation were asked to participate in the survey. The results were listed in three major categories with the top category of faculty quality broken into individual rankings for the top 20 universities.

But, despite the University's success in past studies, many department chairmen expressed concern over the validity of numbered rankings based on surveys from outside professors.

Jones said past studies had not included objective data such as available grants and student success rates.

The method for rating the quality of the faculty and program is essentially the same except this year's survey listed the professors for each school so the professors who were rating could be sure who was at the university, Jones said.

Still, even with this tightening of the design of the study, department chairmen had reservations

about the survey. The chairmen said they thought the rankings could point out strong departments but they did not feel the rankings could appraise one department above another accurately.

R. Don Higginbotham, chairman of the history department, said he was pleased with the past rankings of the history department.

Higginbotham said it was difficult to judge a department accurately based on the opinions of professors who may or may not really know the department.

"It's hard for me to have an opinion of the Harvard history department," Higginbotham said, adding that since he had concentrated in American history, he also had reservations about trying to rate all areas of another department.

The rankings do point out the institutions with potential, but a good researcher is not always a good teacher, Higginbotham said.

Chairman of the classics department, Phillip Stadter, said the ranking of departments was a chancy business.

"It's a very subjective evaluation," Stadter said. "Sort of like saying who's going to win the football game."

The classics department was ranked fifth in the Roosevelt-Anderson study but, Stadter said the real

validity of the survey was not in the numbered rankings. The study does point out where the strong departments are, he said.

Stadter said he felt the most recent survey had a much better design than past surveys but, there was always the problem of outdated material. The first part of the study is expected to be released this Spring. The surveys were conducted in 1980.

Edward Montgomery, chairman of the department of romance languages, said he was proud of the fact that the French department had placed 14th in the earlier study.

Montgomery said one problem with the rankings was that a professor would not really know much about a department but would rely on hearsay to make his judgments.

The ratings can be a reaction to something that is not really that meaningful, Montgomery said. If the rater hears that the top professors have left a university, he will feel the quality of the faculty has gone down without considering the fact that equally good replacements have been found, Montgomery said.

Montgomery said the internal and external evaluations of a department, which include bringing in outside scholars to the University to judge the program and self-evaluations, revealed more

about the success of a program.

Sociology department chairman John Kasarda said he was delighted with his department's past ranking of seventh in the Roosevelt-Anderson study, adding that he was optimistic about this year's results.

Kasarda said the survey was the best available without going to a great expense. But Kasarda said he did not see a "halo effect" in the rankings. Departments in outstanding universities such as Harvard or Berkeley sometimes get good rankings because they are embedded in an institution with a good reputation while lesser known universities with good programs may be ignored, he said.

Renee Hoover, assistant to the dean of the graduate school, coordinated the collection of data campuswide.

Hoover said raters were selected at each level — full professor, associate professor and assistant professor — and asked to rank the programs of other schools. Hoover said she felt the study was the best national survey in design because it attempted to look beyond the judgments of professors to quantitative information. But she added she understood why some professors were wary of the study.

Journalism graduate now a chimney sweep

By RANDY WALKER
DTH Staff Writer

What does a journalism major do after graduation, when he wants to stay in Chapel Hill, but the local job market is tight?

He becomes a chimney sweep. At least that's what David Pence, who bills himself as Sixpence Chimney Sweeps Ltd., did after he graduated from UNC last year.

"They talk about paying your dues, but I was not interested in starting out as a cub reporter in Beaufort, N.C. The point of this is to get liquid. Chimney-sweeping is a wonderful way to make money for the future."

Pence had also considered joining the Navy, but after he met Jane, his girlfriend, seven-month cruises didn't look too appealing, he said.

But personal considerations aside, sweeping chimneys has some advantages over scrubbing decks on an aircraft carrier or writing obituaries for the *Gastonia Gazette*.

"It's nice to be independent. It's fun. I like the idea of a top hat, and I have some tails from my grandfather."

Wearing his top hat and sometimes his tails, Pence drives to his jobs in a black Ford pickup with ladders sticking out the back.

"Depending on the truck, you can invest \$5,000 (in equipment) if you want. I had a lot of tools already — ball peen hammer, wire brushes. The system I got was something like \$1,500."

The "system" included fiberglass rods, brushes and an industrial-strength vacuum cleaner, Pence said.

Once he had the "System," Pence had to learn the trade. There was no family tradition to pass down; his father is a speech professor here. So, like a good Carolina student, Pence hit the books.

"I researched. I got some books on chimney-sweeping and some trade magazines. You gotta diagnose and know all about chimneys — the actual cleaning is only part of it."

"With a chimney, (how much it needs cleaning) depends on how much you burn. If you burn heavily, once a year. With wood stoves, once or twice a season."

Armed with his chimney-sweeping books and the "System," Pence took out a half-page ad in the Yellow Pages and set up a business phone in his home. He was president and chairman of the board and Jane was the secretary. But he soon found the official life too restricting.

"If you get into it with a phone, you're pretty much committed to it full-time. Now I'm working mostly for the Stove Works (Rt. 54 East) so I don't have to hassle with the phone."

While the people at the Stove Works take his calls and leave messages, Pence pursues his other career, waiting tables at La Residence Restaurant on Rosemary Street.

"Generally, sweeping chimneys provides a second income. It's a career only

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David Pence, a UNC graduate, of Sixpence Chimney Sweeps Ltd. ... 'A Clean Chimney is a Safe Chimney,' fun and independent

Job market

Firms looking at non-business majors

By KEN MINGIS
DTH Staff Writer

Because of the scarcity of jobs, increasingly higher numbers of students have come to UNC planning to major in a business-related field during the past few years. But, employers are looking for more than just business majors, Pat Carpenter of the University Placement Services, said this week.

There are many types of jobs that don't require specialized business courses, he said. What more enlightened employers want are good college students; broadly educated people.

Carpenter said that students should take a broader number of courses, and not just concentrate on business as a way of getting a job.

"A lot of people would rather major in something like English or psychology, but get frightened away," he said. "The only difference is that business majors have a little more experience."

Carpenter said she had pointed out to employers that they tended to look for only business students in the past.

But, the situation is changing, she said. "They (employers) are looking at things differently now," she said. "Some have told me they plan to include people from all backgrounds in their schedule of interviews (of students)."

Several economics and business professors said they felt too much emphasis was placed on business-oriented majors.

"There is sentiment that we are basically overselling the business-type major," said Richard Cramer, an adviser in the general college.

"We realize there is a strong demand for these majors, but students are majoring in areas they don't really want," Cramer said. "Some students detest their major."

The number of declared economics and industrial relations majors has quadrupled since 1975, said Robbie Hassell, chairman of the Academic Procedures Committee. The committee also is looking at the overcrowding problem, he said.

The desire for a good job has been blamed for the rapid rise of students entering the business school and majoring in economics or industrial relations.

"If you had asked what conditions would be like, no one would have believed the overcrowding," said John Walker, assistant to the dean of the business

school. "The rise has occurred over the last six years."

Hassell said his committee would be looking for ways to reduce student sentiment for getting into business-oriented majors.

"We're going to have to try to change students' perceptions," Hassell said. "They come here with their parents telling them to major in business so they (students) can get a good job."

But, shifting the emphasis from business to other areas of study will take a while, Carpenter said.

"It will help to some extent, but the economy doesn't look like it will get any better," she said. "And remember, this isn't just at North Carolina. It's happening at other schools, too."

"I think students should also remember that UNC is a liberal arts school, not just a business school," Walker said.

"The business school obviously has its place around here, but it shouldn't be dominant at a liberal arts school," Carpenter said.

Economics majors on the rise

By KEN MINGIS
DTH Staff Writer

In an effort to deal with a rising number of majors, the economics department has asked Arts and Sciences Dean Samuel Williamson to reallocate faculty and resources to maintain the quality of education, said Richard Cramer, a member of a task force set up by Williamson to look into the problem.

"The major thrust of the recommendation is to try to get faculty members who could teach a number of economics courses," Cramer said.

Limiting economics courses to majors, and instituting a minimum grade point average for the department were also possible alternatives brought up at an Arts and Sciences faculty meeting, said Robbie Hassell, chairperson of the Academic Policy Committee of Student Government.

The meeting was called to discuss what the economics department can do in response to the inflow of students caused by tighter Business School requirements, Hassell said.

"Because of the change in their (the business school) admission requirements, a lot of students are changing their majors from business to economics or industrial relations," Hassell said.

Since the spring of 1975, the number of economics majors has risen from 102 to 468, he said.

"The faculty is getting upset, because they can't teach

anything but the core courses," Hassell said. "The average number of students in the general college economics classes is 228."

But, he said, no decision has been made yet as to what to do. "The department is waiting to see what the dean's response is to the request for more resources," said Helen Tauchen, an economics professor.

"It is a real problem," she said. "Students who have just declared themselves economics majors are worried over whether they'll have to take five years to get through the courses."

Hassell said there was some concern about allocating additional resources to economics courses because the overcrowding may only be a temporary problem.

"Doing that would be a long range solution to what would turn out to be a short term rise in students," he said.

An overload of students was an important consideration in the business school's response to the same problem, John Walker, assistant to the dean of the business school, said.

"Merely because there is an economic pressure that draws students to the business school, that doesn't mean you change the character of the whole school," Walker said.

"The time will come when the emphasis will shift back (to other areas, away from business)," Walker said.

Cramer said that he did not feel the economics curriculum itself needed revision.

"We're generally satisfied with it," he said.

Narrowing the gap Cancun summit gets underway

The Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico — President Ronald Reagan gave conditional approval Thursday to negotiations intended to narrow the gap between the world's richest and poorest nations but also defended the U.S. "track record of success in international economics."

Reagan's remarks at the opening of the North-South summit conference of 22 nations in this Yucatan Peninsula resort were the first indication since he arrived here Wednesday that his administration would take part in the global negotiations favored by many of the participants.

But he said the talks must be based on four essential understandings.

The historic two-day conference was opened by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, the host, who criticized the current world economic order as unjust and unfair.

Reagan, saying "words are cheap," and "cooperative action is needed — and needed now," urged low-income countries to develop their markets and exports not by weakening the system that has served everyone so well, but by improving it.

The four points the president identified for participation in global negotiations were:

- The talks should be oriented toward specific areas including liberalizing trade regulations, energy and food development and improving the investment climate.

- The talks should not seek to create new international institutions but should recognize the competence, functions and powers of existing international agencies.

- They should be aimed at achieving greater international economic growth that would benefit all while taking into account domestic economic policies.

- They should be held in a cooperative atmosphere, "rather than one in which views become polarized and chances for agreement are needlessly sacrificed."

"If these understandings are accepted, then the U.S. would be willing to engage in a new preparatory process to see what may be achieved," Reagan said, suggesting that representatives of the 22 nations confer informally in the future about the process.

Reagan, who spoke in private to the delegates and whose text was then made available by the White House, also outlined the U.S. policy toward international economic development.

"The program deals not in flashy new gimmicks, but in substantive fundamentals with a track record of success," he said. "It rests on a coherent view of what's essential to development — namely political freedom and economic opportunity."

Reagan used the term global negotiations only in the context of a quotation from a communique that ended a conference of the seven major industrial

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Orange County farmers relieved after House vote

By LAURA SEIFERT
DTH Staff Writer

Tobacco producers breathed a sigh of relief after the federal tobacco price support program survived in a 231-184 U.S. House of Representatives vote Wednesday.

"The program has been given a second life," said Dave Warren, associate agricultural extension agent for Orange County.

Warren said he had felt the recent challenge by Congress to kill the support program coming.

"In the past several years people have been crying wolf (with regard to the program)," he said. The time for Congress to address the issue had been drawing closer.

Lobbyists headed by North Carolinians worked intensively to keep the price supports alive. Tobacco is the only non-food, non-fiber product which still is federally subsidized.

"Had the amendment passed and the federal program been killed, 'we would have seen' tobacco moving out of this area," Warren said.

Now, with the continuation of federal support, small tobacco farmers, as well as large producers, can continue to produce the crop.

In Orange County last year, 2,680 acres of tobacco were planted. The average yield was 1,682 pounds per acre, making the total yield 4,525,693 pounds at a price of \$6,606,782. Warren said this total ranked tobacco production second only to the production of Grade A milk among agricultural products in Orange County.

There are some large tobacco producers in the area, but Warren said

most of them were in the northwestern part of the county. Fifty to seventy-five acres is considered by Warren to be one of the area's larger farms.

"There are quite a number of tobacco farmers in the county," he said. "But (we are) not one of your largest of the tobacco-producing counties."

"I was scared there for a while," said farmer Jim Riley.

Riley and his father work three acres of tobacco in Orange County.

"If they'd cut (supports) out, there'd have been so many people on unemployment that you'd end up spending more in taxes on welfare (than on price supports)," Riley said.

Riley said that he and his father have, produce about 5,600 pounds of tobacco annually.

Warren said he did not feel that the price support controversy was over.

"I think we can pretty well expect that this will be an issue again," he said. Some kind of compromise will have to be reached before the issue will be settled.

There will have to be some altering of the program, like reducing costs in some of the program's controversial areas, Warren said.

The six states involved in the Flue-cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia) will play a big role in settling the issue.

"We're going to have to give some and take some," Warren said. "The general structure of the tobacco program has got to exist to make it a thriving commodity of this area."