

weather
 TODAY: Mostly sunny; high mid-70s
 SATURDAY: Clearing; high mid to upper 70s

on campus
 • Students for Clinton will meet at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Morehead Planetarium to go see the candidate at N.C. State.

city / page 3
SARATOV SIBLINGS
 Representatives from Saratov, Russia, Chapel Hill-Carboro's sister city, arrived for a visit Wednesday

sports / page 5
BACKING MACK
 For some UNC football fans, the clock may be ticking on head coach Mack Brown as he tries to lead the Tar Heels to victory in big games

sportsline
SLAPPED: The Syracuse athletic program, with a two-year probation by the NCAA. The Orangemen's basketball program will not be allowed to compete in the men's 1992-93 NCAA tournament. The penalties were lightened because of Syracuse's cooperation in the yearlong investigation. Syracuse acknowledged at least 15 violations in its men's basketball program. Other violations were found in women's basketball, football, lacrosse and wrestling.

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Panel members favor free-standing BCC

By Jennifer Talhelm
 Assistant University Editor

Although the blue-ribbon panel working on a concrete design for a new or expanded black cultural center did not reach a definite solution at its first meeting Thursday, members left the gathering in favor of a free-standing BCC.

Although some working-group members said they wanted to learn more about the situation before officially announcing their support, Provost Richard McCormick, chairman of the group, said he would draft a report detailing the group's position on the BCC issue — including that they favored a free-standing building.

Chancellor Paul Hardin charged the committee with developing a definitive plan for a new or expanded Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. Hardin has told the committee not to rule out any architectural plans, including the possibility of a free-standing center.

The group, which met for about four hours in the Toy Lounge of Dey Hall, acknowledged that the input and support of the BCC Advisory Board and members of the coalition for a free-standing BCC was needed to give the committee legitimacy.

McCormick said he was confident that the advisory board members and coalition leaders would get a positive message from the outcome of the meeting.

Coalition leaders have said they would deal only with Hardin directly. Members of the movement have said the BCC Advisory Board already had made plans for the new building.

Edith Wiggins, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and part of the committee's staff support group, advised the group that they should ask to join the BCC Advisory Board.

"I think the committee can help edu-

cate this entire community on how to share decision-making with the black community," she said. "By joining the advisory board, we could demonstrate to the larger community that (the group) understands how to share decision-making power."

Wendell Haynes, a member of the group and father of the late professor Sonja Haynes Stone, for whom the present BCC is named, said he was in contact with the students and would work hard to get them to join the working group.

When the meeting ended, members agreed to try to communicate individually with coalition and advisory board members before the working group met again to try to get them to meet with the working group. The working group will meet again at 2 p.m. Monday in the Toy Lounge.

McCormick said that in addition to pledging the committee's support for a free-standing center, his report would state that the BCC Advisory Board should determine BCC programs and plans. He said the report also would state that the working group would be ready to assist the advisory board at any time.

The draft will express the position that the working group does not think a free-standing center would promote separatism, McCormick added.

Some opponents of a free-standing BCC have said a new building would promote separatism. In a statement to the committee, though, Hardin said his position on the issue had been misunderstood. "I support the concept of a black cultural center," he said. "And I do not subscribe to the view that those who seek a free-standing center are separatists."

McCormick said he thought it was likely that the report would be revised at the group's next meeting because more

than one member had expressed reservations about supporting a free-standing building until they learned more about the issue.

"(The report) will be my effort — with the help of others — to express where I think the group is headed," McCormick said. "It may not be entirely satisfactory to them on Monday. Some others have said they need more time."

Group members Harvey Gantt, a former mayor of Charlotte and candidate for U.S. Senate, and Richard Williams, 1975 UNC graduate, both said they wanted to learn more about the BCC issue and its history before officially pledging their support. Gantt and Williams left the meeting early because of prior commitments.

Gantt said he did not think he was prepared to make a decision until he had researched the issue.

"Emotionally, I'm ready to vote for a free-standing center," Gantt said. "But I want to hear all the sides. I'm not ready to end this whole thing here when we have the opportunity to lend some credibility to this. To get the wheels rolling."

Robert Eubanks, a former chairman of the Board of Trustees and a committee member, said he had reservations about a free-standing BCC but thought the group could be productive if members of the coalition joined.

"It can be very productive, I think, if we can get students to participate — and that is crucial," Eubanks said. "I can support a free-standing center."

Adrian Patillo, a group member and a UNC junior, said he supported a free-standing BCC but wasn't sure whether the committee's decision would be accepted by the coalition. "Once everyone gets together, and we're in agreement about free standing, then we'll see," he said.



UNC Provost and working group chairman Richard McCormick (center) led the first meeting to formulate plans for a new BCC. DTH/Erin Randall

Patillo said a larger issue was the need to educate the community on the BCC issue.

"There's been a lot of criticism about it and a lot of assumptions that it's separatist," he said.

"The BCC has been open to everyone for years, and the free-standing building will be just as open. I believe

it's important that the people at this table should come up with a proposal and educate students — we're going back to 1984."

Committee member Patrick Rivers, a UNC doctoral student, agreed with Patillo that the committee should play a larger role in educating the community about the function of a BCC.

"I have reservations about the perception among especially white students that this is a black thing," he said. "What needs to be stressed is the benefit to the entire community."

Two new members joined the committee this week: 1974 UNC graduate Allen Mask and 1985 alumnus LaBron Reid.

Perot throws 10-gallon hat back into ring

The Associated Press
 DALLAS — Ross Perot plunged belatedly into the presidential race Thursday, setting the stage for a three-way struggle with President Bush and Bill Clinton during the final month of the campaign. "Government is a mess," Perot said, vowing to repair it.

The Texas billionaire said he was joining the race because "neither political party has effectively addressed" economic and other concerns that are on the minds of the voters. "We gave them a chance; they didn't do it," he said of his rivals.

He made his remarks at a news conference 11 weeks to the day after he announced he would not run. He said at that time he believed he could not win and did not want to be a disruptive influence on the campaign.

He didn't address the likelihood of victory in his announcement speech before family, friends and supporters in his home state of Texas. Instead, he looked beyond the election, pledging to dedicate himself to solving the nation's problems and rallying the public to the cause. "Looking forward, working together, we can fix anything," he said.

Perot once had support rivaling that of Bush and Clinton in the public opinion polls. But his backing dwindled through a series of spring controversies, and he now runs a distant third in polls.

Even so, his entry, coupled with the prospect of a series of October debates, injected uncertainty into a race that Clinton has led consistently since July.

Perot cast his announcement as a

deferential bow to the volunteers he said had urged him to reconsider his earlier refusal to run. However, spending reports filed with the government indicate he has spent millions since his nominal withdrawal to maintain a political infrastructure and to make sure his name was placed on all 50 state ballots.

Perot stepped forward as Bush and Clinton negotiators tried to nail down arrangements for a series of debates. They met privately through the day in Washington after beginning talks Wednesday night. Perot, asked if he wanted in, replied, "Sure, I'll be glad to participate."

Bush declined to answer questions about Perot as he arrived at the White House from Camp David before the Texan's comments.

Clinton, campaigning in Wisconsin, said, "I'm going to run my race" regardless of Perot. "I think my fight is with George Bush."

Perot, trying to capitalize on widespread voter dissatisfaction, said his fight was with both parties and a political system that has allowed the economy to deteriorate.

"Our people are good; the American people are good, but their government is a mess," Perot said.

Critics contend Perot is on a crusade to refurbish his tattered image — he's been widely called a quitter since July — while supporters say he's being honest when he says his goal is to focus attention on deficit reduction and other economic matters.



Head over hat
 Chris Pierson, a sophomore from Covington, La., loses his hat while flipping on a trampoline. The trampoline was set up by Sigma Chi Thursday as part of Derby Days. DTH/Erin Randall

Police search for witnesses to fires

By Dale Castle
 Staff Writer

Chapel Hill police released a composite Thursday of a possible witness who was shopping in Cameron's at University Mall minutes before a fire Sept. 20.

The fire was the first of three on the same day that damaged or destroyed Chapel Hill businesses. The Intimate Bookshop on Franklin Street and the Eastgate Food Lion also burned.

Chapel Hill Police Detective Barry Thompson said the composite was the best the officials could draw with information from Cameron employees.

"We're not saying he's a suspect, but at the very least, he was a witness," Thompson said.

The Arson Task Force, consisting of agents from the Chapel Hill police and fire departments, the State Bureau of Investigation and the N.C. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, is looking for anyone with information relating to any of the three fires, Thompson said.

"Sometimes you see things, and it might not dawn on you that it would do (the Arson Task Force) some good," Thompson said.

Detective Arbin Sanders, the agent on the Arson Task Force from the Chapel Hill Police Department, said he wasn't sure whether the man in the composite bought anything at Cameron's.

Thompson said investigators especially were looking for witnesses near



Police composite of witness
 any of the three fires about five minutes before they started.

The fire at Cameron's started at 5:07 p.m., the Intimate Bookshop fire began at 6:49 p.m., and the Eastgate Food Lion fire started at 7:25 p.m. Sept. 20.

Police are asking anyone with information relating to the three fires to call Sanders at 968-2767 or Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-851-7867.

Informants instrumental in convicting arsonists responsible for the fires might receive a reward of as much as \$10,000 from the N.C. Arson Awareness Council.

Tripodi vies for council post

By Chad Merritt
 Staff Writer

Paul Tripodi, a candidate in last year's election for Chapel Hill Town Council, submitted an application Thursday to the growing field of residents being considered for the council's vacant seat.

The town of Chapel Hill will be accepting applications through Monday to fill the post resigned by former council member Roosevelt Wilkerson earlier this month. Wilkerson resigned after he admitted falsifying Chapel Hill Mayor Ken Brown's signature on an official town document.

"I am seeking to serve on the Town Council because I can give a new dimension to the information upon which

the Council must base its decisions," Tripodi's letter to the council states. "I will add timely business, employment and economic information on a current first-hand basis. Operating a successful small business for ten years has given me the knowledge and experience needed on the council."

Tripodi, owner of Tripodi's Delicatessen at University Mall and Plaza, See TRIPODI, page 2



Sangam votes to support black cultural center

By Justin Scheef
 Staff Writer

Sangam, the Indian student association, voted this week to support the construction of a free-standing Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center.

The motion was accepted by 76 percent of the group's members.

Sangam was organized by students and faculty in 1986 to promote cultural

awareness of the Indian sub-continent. With 70 registered members, it is one of the largest ethnic organizations on the campus, second only to the Black Student Movement.

Sekhar Ghosh, president of Sangam, said he hoped the vote would make people on campus aware that other cultures supported a free-standing BCC. "We wanted to dispel the myth that it was one minority against another,"

Ghosh said.

Ryan Mathias, co-chairman of the Sangam minority affairs committee, said Sangam supported the BCC because it was a more developed organization. "At this time, we feel that the BCC is the minority group that we need to support," Mathias said.

"Anything that can break the eurocentric focus of this campus is a step in the right direction," Mathias

said. "And the BCC has its foot stretched out the farthest."

Sneha Shah, a sophomore from Charlotte and a member of Sangam's minority affairs committee, said the decision was a step towards having a multicultural university. "Not supporting the BCC would stall the advancement of this campus being multicultural," she said.

See SANGAM, page 2

You the people own me. — H. Ross Perot