Financial aid one-stop website on the way

Will Leimenstoll hopes to finish the website by the end of fall semester.

By Jessica New
Staff Writer

For students trying to navigate through their financial aid options, the process will soon be made easier.

Student Body President Will Leimenstoll is working to create a one-stop website that will contain information on all of the financial resources available to UNC students.

Leimenstoll is working with Information Technology Services and University administrators to build the website.

Leimenstoll said his goal is to have the site up by the end of the fall 2012 semester.

"Resources are out there, and there are some places where it's aggregated, but there's not one place out there that shows the whole picture," Leimenstoll said.

The website — which will have the domain name money.unc.edu — will direct students to information on different types of funding, such as financial aid for tuition, summer unpaid internships and study abroad.

Leimenstoll said that while those resources exist, the students who need the resources most often don't know about them.

"There's a large inequity in information on how the University functions and on many resources of this university," he said.

"Every student who comes to Carolina should have the same knowledge of opportunities here. This website helps address that."

Leimenstoll said he hopes the website will include potential funding from sources other than the University.

"We don't want it to be just UNC resources; we want to find things like scholarships through fraternities, the federal government, foundations," he said.

Leimenstoll said that he would be surprised if the University were the first to implement such a website and will look into whether other schools have a similar site.

Will Leimenstoll is working with ITS and administrators on a comprehensive financial aid website.

The website will also include financial management information for students.

Shirley Ort, director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, said the problem is not a lack of transparency, but rather a lack of knowledge on where to find the information.

"One of the most helpful things would be to have links all provided on one page," Ort said.

"Nothing like that has been done yet, where everything from all departments has been pulled together."

She said anything that could sort all of the various sources would be a service to students.

"I know when I wanted information on University statistics, I go to the UNC website but it's not always logical to me where to go to look for it," Ort said.

"I'm sure students would say that same thing about finding financial information."

Sophomore Laura Painter said it's often a struggle to find available forms of financial aid other than tuition grants.

"I know there's more out there but sometimes it's hard to find scholarships," Painter said. "You really have to look hard for those."

"I think it'd be great to have a website like that to break it all down for you and point you in the right direction."

According to a White House press release earlier this month, the average student who uses loans to pay for college graduates with about $26,300 of debt.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

CARRBORO UNDER CONSTRUCTION

DTH/MELISSA KEY

Construction signs on Estes Drive Extension off of Martin Luther King Boulevard heading toward Carrboro say "end road work" and "road work ahead" within a short distance. Road construction has been ongoing this summer.

Legislature moving quickly

By Amanda Albright
Staff Writer

Legislators are attempting to pass bills on topics ranging from the death penalty to eugenics in the short session, which began May 16.

Bill could make it harder to challenge death sentences

The Amend Death Penalty Procedures bill seeks to prevent the use of statistical evidence of racism in the court to overturn death sentences.

The bill represents a second attempt by lawmakers to weaken the 2009 Racial Justice Act, which allows minorities to challenge their death sentence if evidence of racial bias is found in their sentencing.

Proponents of the law have argued that the changes are necessary to prevent convicted criminals from avoiding the death penalty.

But N.C. American Civil Liberties Union spokesman Mike Meno said such statewide statistical evidence provides context to judges about how pervasive racism is in capital punishment.

The bill has passed votes in both the House and Senate, and is currently in a Senate committee.

Gov. Bev Perdue has vetoed similar legislation in the past.

Sea level data questioned by the General Assembly

The growing standoff between environmental and economic concerns is reflected in the Coastal Management Policies bill.

The bill requires the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission to create regulations that anticipate rising sea levels based on historical trends, rather than scientific data.

The commission's science panel predicted in March 2010 that the state could face as much as a 39-inch sea level rise by the year 2100. But the bill would require the commission to plan for a much lower rise.

Supporters of the legislation have said the bill is needed to ensure development in coastal areas is not neglected based on a long term forecast.

Michele Walker, spokeswoman for the N.C. Division of Coastal Management, said there are no plans to regulate development in coastal regions yet.

Opponents have said the bill ignores a scientific consensus on the matter.

The bill has passed the Senate and was sent to a House conference committee Tuesday.

Eugenics program victims could receive up to $50,000

In contrast to many of the controversial bills debated so far in the short session, bipartisan support has emerged for a bill that would compensate victims of a historic state-sponsored injustice.

The Eugenics Compensation Program bill would pay $50,000 to each of the estimated 2,994 surviving victims according to the State Center for Health Statistics.

Thousands of residents were sterilized by the state for decades, often without their knowledge or consent, until the practice was outlawed in the 1970s.

Sen. Floyd McKissick, D-Durham, said there was a bipartisan effort among the House leadership and Perdue to create a reasonable bill, but some legislators have expressed concern about the potential cost of the bill.

The bill has passed the House and is currently in the Senate.

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

'Dump the pump' with a bus ride

By Chessa DeCain
City Editor

Chapel Hill Transit wants more people to ride the buses — and they hope an event happening today will encourage people to do so.

National Dump the Pump Day encourages people to utilize public modes of transportation.

As of Tuesday, 133 transit systems across the country planned to participate in Dump the Pump Day, said Virginia Miller, spokeswoman for the American Public Transportation Association.

"Our main message is that if you take public transportation, you can save money," she said. "It's a cost-effective way of helping your budget."

Miller said a lot of transit systems encourage people to try out public transit by offering free or reduced fare on Dump the Pump Day.

But since Chapel Hill Transit is already free, Brian Litchfield, assistant director for Chapel Hill Transit, said he hopes more people will use the event as a reason to try public transportation.

Litchfield said the high number of rides Chapel Hill Transit gives — about 7 million per year or 28,000 per day — means they aren't looking for a specific number of new riders today.

"Our feeling is that if we get even one person who's not currently using public transportation to ride the bus, then it's a good thing," he said.

Litchfield said Chapel Hill Transit is the second most-used transit system in the state, behind Charlotte.

"Is there room for more people to ride the bus? Absolutely," Litchfield said. "But overall, we do have our services operating at or very near capacity."

Miller said the event first began in 2005, after gas prices reached $3 for the first time.

She said a two-car household can save up to $10,000 per year by limiting usage to one car and using public transportation.

Susan Hardy, a UNC employee, said she has been using Chapel Hill Transit since she was an undergraduate at UNC.

"There are always days where you feel like a chump for using it, because it's pouring or it's 10 degrees or whatever," she said. "But on the whole, it's really nice to live in a community that has good transit."

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

games

SUDOKU

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Level: 1 **2** 3 4

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		6		1	9			
8	6		9					
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TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution to last week's puzzle

7	2	1	8	6	5	3	4	9
6	3	9	4	1	7	2	5	8
8	5	4	3	2	9	1	6	7
5	9	6	1	3	4	7	8	2
2	4	7	5	9	8	6	1	3
3	1	8	6	7	2	4	9	5
1	8	3	7	5	6	9	2	4
9	7	5	2	4	1	8	3	6
4	6	2	9	8	3	5	7	1

Double comedy show

DSI Comedy Theater is bringing two comedy shows together in one night. **See pg. 5 for story.**

Williams looks forward

The men's basketball team is looking to move past last season's injuries. **See pg. 6 for story.**

Book pitches

Pitchapalooza at Flyleaf Books gives writers one minute to pitch a book idea. **See pg. 5 for story.**

Stormin' Mormon

Robbie Harms discusses love of the Stormin' Mormon, Stilman White. **See pg. 6 for story.**

Benefit gallery

A UNC student coordinated two benefit art shows before her graduation. **See pg. 5 for story.**

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Varsity Theatre

Movie Showtimes for Week 6/22 - 6/28 - All Movies $4.00
CLOSED MONDAY

CHERNOBYL DIARIES R
Fri & Sat: 7:10 Tue-Thu: 7:10

THE LUCKY ONE PG-13
Fri: 7:00 Sat: 4:30, 7:00 Sun: 7:00 Tue-Thu: 7:00

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS R
Fri & Sat: 9:20 Tue-Thu: 9:20

21 JUMP STREET R
Fri & Sat: 9:30 Sun: 7:10 Tue-Thu: 9:30

DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX PG
Sat & Sun: 4:40

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

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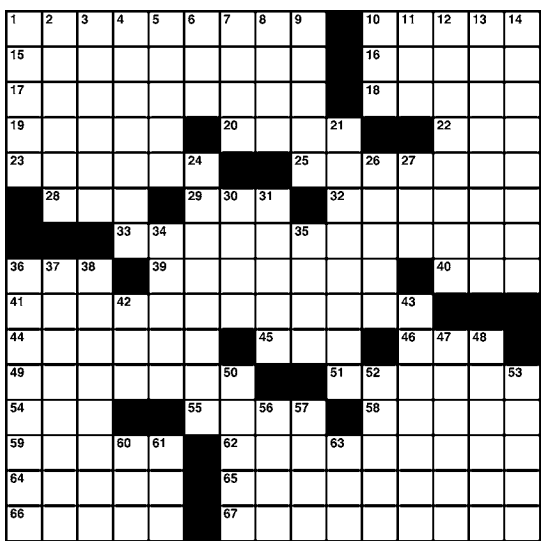
ACROSS
1 St. Basil's Cathedral locale
10 "Whereupon ..."
15 What Henry taught Eliza
16 Diner choice
17 Rash
18 Did stable work
19 Heaps
20 Forever, it seems
22 Arctic explorer John
23 Good-hearted
25 Building with a dome
28 Snorkel, e.g.: Abbr.
29 Shell mover
32 Angora goat fabric
33 Evidentiary home movie studied by the Warren Commission
36 Short-term funding source
39 Site of regular slopping
40 Soap component
41 Programs for quick studies
44 Hoodwink
45 Catch on
46 AMEX, e.g.
49 Indulged in to excess
51 Aglow in the gloaming
54 Morass
55 Michael of "Juno"
58 Colleague of Clarence and Ruth
59 Squeeze
62 Target for some keglers
64 Dandy's accessory
65 Like many bibliographies
66 Bagpipes and saxes
67 Overdrawn account?

DOWN
1 Recovery locale
2 Gets together quietly?
3 Prone to spoiling
4 "The beer that made Milwaukee famous"
5 Wouk captain
6 First name in acting instruction
7 "O patria mia" singer
8 "Walkabout" director Nicolas
9 Rear-__
10 Chiseled muscles
11 Masked drama
12 Epitome of deadness
13 With regularity
14 "My heavens!"
21 Cheddar's county
24 Hardly easy
26 Self-titled jazz vocal album of 1958
27 Old dial letters
30 Castor and Pollux sailed on it
31 Chaka Khan's old group
34 Plant pest
35 Provoke
36 Pearl Harbor attack, e.g.
37 Pass over
38 Act friendly
42 Source of Sun. light?
43 Flirt with, in a way
47 Pick-up artist?
48 More minuscule
50 Joltless joe?
52 Painful paintball mementos
53 Early personal computer maker
56 Mumbai royal
57 Journalists Compton and Curry
60 Show boredom
61 Alfa Romeo sports cars
63 Head-slapper's cry

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