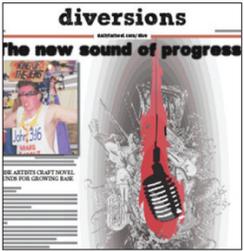


The Daily Tar Heel

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diversions | page 5

NOISEMAKERS

Local noise musicians are looking to give listeners something they've never heard before. Also in Dive, an interview with Hawthorne Heights singer JT Woodruff.



video | online

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Meet David Crawford, a senior in a dual degree program with the University of Singapore who will intern in Budapest. Visit dailytarheel.com to watch the latest Close Up.



university | page 3

RICK REACHES OUT

Student body president candidate Rick Ingram wants to decrease student fees, improve the organization of student groups and link government to students.

city | page 8

ONLINE IN JEOPARDY

State financial cuts could affect the 700 area high school students who take online classes. Last year, online classes cost the school district about \$355 per student.

this day in black history

FEB. 3, 1870...

The 15th amendment is ratified, prohibiting the denial of suffrage based on "race, color or previous condition of servitude." Discrimination in voting would still be practiced until 1965, however.

Today's weather

Groundhog was just playing
H 42, L 32

Friday's weather

Groundhog hates you
H 41, L 36

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COMMITTED AMID ADVERSITY



DTH/NIVI UMASANKAR

UNC head coach Butch Davis speaks to reporters at UNC's Signing Day press conference in the Kenan Football Center on Wednesday afternoon. Twenty-five high school seniors signed letters of intent with UNC, giving the football team a competitive recruiting class.

Tar Heels ink 25 recruits on Signing Day

BY LOUIE HORVATH
SENIOR WRITER

In what is becoming almost a tradition for North Carolina's football program, head coach Butch Davis rang in another successful National Signing Day — but this year, he did it with a degree of difficulty.

Despite the specter of NCAA rulings clouding the Tar Heels' football future, prospective players still sent in the national letters of intent in droves as 25 recruits signed a commitment Wednesday to play at UNC.

These weren't just any 25 high school football players. Twenty were ranked three stars or above by Scout.com and five were in the Scout.com Top 100, including one five-star surprise in 6-foot-5, 265 lb. defensive tackle Delvon Simmons.

Simmons only started listing UNC on his college list recently and went on an official visit to Chapel Hill just this weekend, but on Signing Day, he sent his letter of intent to Kenan Stadium.

"I won't tell you that it was a slam-dunk 100 percent that we knew emphatically that he was going to sign, but we felt over the last three or four days that we had a great chance," Davis said. "When he came back from his official visit, that night he called up (offensive coordinator) John Shoop and said, 'I know where I want to

go to school, I want to go to Carolina.'" Save Simmons, UNC didn't get many surprises on Signing Day. But they didn't lose many commitments, either.

First-year recruiting coordinator Allen Mogridge was able to haul in a top-20 class even after former recruiting coordinator John Blake resigned amid speculation of his involvement in the NCAA investigation.

In the cutthroat world of recruiting, any sign of weakness can erode a university's recruiting class to the core, but UNC warded that off by being up front with all prospective recruits, Davis said.

"First and foremost, we were always honest with the kids that we recruited," Davis said. "We told them exactly what transpired in August and September, we told them absolutely everything that we knew. Things that had transpired, and we never tried to paint a picture of something that wouldn't be realistic."

Davis said other coaching staffs engaged in negative recruiting, but that for the most part had no adverse effect on UNC, as the program did not lose many commitments once the NCAA investigation came out in the summer.

"For the most part, the significant part of this class had made a commitment that

SEE **SIGNING DAY**, PAGE 4

BY THE NUMBERS

25

high school seniors signed letters of intent with UNC

16th

ranking in Scout.com poll among all FBS schools

3rd

ranking among ACC schools in recruiting class

3.45

average star recruit for class

Notable signees



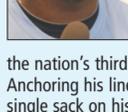
T.J. Thorpe A January enrollee, Thorpe comes to UNC as the 50th best wide out in the country. At Durham's Jordan High School, he set the state record for most kick returns for TDs with five.



Travis Hughes Hughes won the skills competition at the Under-Armour All-American Game. Scout.com ranks him as the nation's fifth best middle linebacker.



Marquise Williams A January enrollee, Williams threw for more than 3,000 yards and accounted for 64 TDs.



Kiaro Holts Scout.com ranks Holts as the nation's third best offensive tackle. Anchoring his line, Holts did not allow a single sack on his QB in his senior year.



Delvon Simmons He led his high school team with 57 tackles — 11 of them for loss — as a senior at the defensive tackle position. He is the 15th best prospect overall according to Scout.com.

CAMPAIGN ISSUES: ACADEMICS

Race focuses on advising, ITS

BY ANDY THOMASON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

In the University's academic conversation, the old encounters the new.

Old is the seemingly perpetual effort to further personalize students' academic experience, represented by the upcoming release of the 2011 academic plan.

New is ConnectCarolina, the online system facilitating academic activity, and concerns surrounding that program.

This body of conversation is reflected in the platforms of the student body president candidates.

All of the candidates lay planks in their platforms for the improvement of both academic advising and ConnectCarolina.

But their specific platform points underscore a reality that comes with the territory of the highest office in student government: that whoever wins the Tuesday election will have little singular effect on UNC's academic future.

A tradition continues

As is a tradition among candidates, this year's batch has put the academic focus on advising.

Mary Cooper, a candidate, said she wants to help implement the faculty mentorship program proposed by the academic plan — a voluntary pro-

gram, she said, that would be aimed at incoming freshmen.

The academic plan's implementation will be overseen by a committee starting next year, said Holly Boardman, student body vice president.

Candidate Rick Ingram favors implementing a system in which class syllabi are posted from past classes during registration.

"This is something that can really help students when they're trying to search for classes," he said.

Boardman challenged how effective this venture, also proposed by Ian Lee, could be.

"The next student body president could definitely work toward changing how we do our syllabi, but it has to be a very strong effort, and I think it will take more than one administration to get that fully completed," she said.

Ideas like the faculty mentoring program and department-based advising — advocated by Lee — are supported by the academic plan, Boardman said.

On the 'front burner'

The candidates have one promise about ConnectCarolina.

They will improve it.

But the proposals outline changes that Larry Conrad, vice chancellor for information technology, said are already close to being implemented by Information Technology Services.

All of the candidates except Cooper

SEE **ACADEMICS**, PAGE 4

Hopefuls on academics

Student body president candidates have advocated several approaches to improving academics at the University.



Mary Cooper, junior from Nashville, Tenn., wants to conduct a survey of opinion on ConnectCarolina.



Rick Ingram, junior from Asheville, wants to add more information to the undergraduate bulletin.



Ian Lee, junior from Cary, wants to create a grievance option for student complaints against professors.



Brooklyn Stephens, junior from Wake Forest, wants to publicize existing resources.

Parking services fees to increase

To cope with \$6.1M in anticipated costs

BY LAUREN RATCLIFFE
STAFF WRITER

Parking and transportation costs affecting the University are set to rise by \$6.1 million by the 2015-16 fiscal year.

And to account for that increase the University is looking to its students and employees, regardless of whether they own a vehicle.

The proposal, set for review by the Board of Trustees in March, would bring average annual transportation fee increases of \$14 for students beginning in the 2011-12 academic year for the next five years. Employees would also see a fee increase.

"We have tried very hard looking at what needs to be done, what we're facing and distributing costs among all of our users," said Cheryl Stout, assistant director for parking services.

Over the next five years, the transportation fee will increase from \$73.50 to \$142, an increase of 93 percent.

Meanwhile, parking permit costs will rise 2 percent annually, with an average increase of between \$5.78 and \$7.60 for students.

Stout said spreading the costs among transit users will ensure that daytime users aren't bearing more than their share of the costs.

The UNC Department of Public Safety does not currently charge bus fares or for parking in the University's park-and-ride lots. In order to come up with the \$6.1 million while maintaining services, it needs to make changes to generate revenue in other ways, she said.

Dakota Williams, student body treasurer, said he understands the fee but is worried that it might be excessive.

"I'm concerned," Williams said. "I think people know that parking is a tough issue, but we're looking at a \$77 increase in the next five years."

The most significant of the proposed changes will go into effect beginning in 2013, when permits for the once-free park-and-ride lots will cost \$250.

"The biggest concern now for graduate students is the park-and-ride pass," said Laura Blue, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

"It seems like students already pay the transit fee and now they have to

SEE **PARKING**, PAGE 4

Complaints target Union renovation

Cite inappropriate petitioning

BY AMELIA NITZ
STAFF WRITER

Complaints to the Board of Elections this season have a new target: the Student Union.

As students and Union officials have scrambled to gather the 2,939 unique signatures required so students can vote on the proposed \$11 million UCommons renovation project, the board has received complaints alleging petitioning practices that violate Student Code election law.

Andrew Phillips, the board's chairman, said about a half dozen complaints have cited violations including petitioning and collecting signatures online and in prohibited areas.

On Wednesday, UNC student Marc Seelinger submitted a complaint that petitioners were collecting signatures in Rams Head Dining Hall, a prohibited area. Other complaints have cited the posting of campaign materials in prohibited areas and the misuse of online campaigning, including the use of Twitter and marketing UCommons on the home page of Union computers.

"As I understand it, the line from dining services is that distributing materials or gathering signatures inside their facilities is prohibited," Phillips said.

Union officials submitted 3,416 signatures on Wednesday to Student Body President Hogan Medlin, said Tyler Mills, president of the Carolina Union Activities Board. Medlin, who will need to verify the signatures and direct the board to vote on the referendum, said he will decide by Sunday.

If 2,939 or more of those signatures are approved, the referendum to raise fees for bottom floor renovations will appear on the Tuesday election ballot.

A majority of at least 735 students must vote in favor of the fee increase for it to pass. Students would pay \$16 more per year for the next 30 years to fund the project, which would provide more meeting and rehearsal space on the bottom floor and keep the building open 24 hours.

Don Luse, director of the Student Union, said the student

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