

News Briefs

Carrboro wants feedback

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the town manager are requesting feedback from town residents regarding Carrboro community needs to be included in the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

A public hearing will be held Feb. 24. The town manager plans to submit a recommended budget on May 5. A public hearing on the recommended budget will be held May 26.

Residents are invited to email suggestions to the town clerk at swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org, fax comments to 918-4456 or mail them to 301 W. Main St., Carrboro, N.C., 27510.

Budget materials are online at townofcarrboro.org/ms/budget.htm

Carolina North meetings scheduled

As *The Citizen* went to press Wednesday night, university and town officials were scheduled to go over a draft development plan for the Carolina North.

According to an updated timeline, a development plan that includes up to 3 million square feet of building space could be ready to be submitted to the town in early March.

Negotiators are working on mitigation measures, storm-water utility plans and transportation planning in this latest phase of the work.

The next public information meeting on Carolina North is scheduled for Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill Town Hall.

Chatham CIP hearing scheduled

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on a proposed update on the county's five-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) on Monday at 6 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom in Pittsboro. The plan include the schedule and financing for large purchases of buildings, land, facilities and equipment. To view the plan go to chathamnc.org/Index.aspx?page=1086

County appointments

The Orange County Board of Commissioners recently made several appointments to boards and commissions. Appointments include;

- Advisory Board on Aging – Haryo Marsosudiro and Heather Altman;
- Affordable Housing Advisory Board – Nannie Richmond;
- Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau – Jim Parker;
- Commission for the Environment – Lucy Adams, Loren Hintz, Michelle Drostin, Chris Adam, Renee Price, Gary Saunders and Dawn Santoianni;
- Historic Preservation Commission – Robin Moran;
- Human Services Advisory Commission – Ronnie Torain, Christi Hurt and Nancy Park;
- Planning Board – Judith Wegner and Mark Marcoplos; and
- Human Relations Commission – Rita Anita Linger and Barbara Prear.

Meeting times change

Meetings of the Orange County Board of Commissioners will begin at 7 p.m. starting in March, unless otherwise noted.

Meetings previously began at 7:30 p.m. The change is temporary, for the 2009 calendar year.

During construction and facility improvements, meetings normally held in Hillsborough at the F. Gordon Battle Courtroom will be held at the new Central Orange Senior Center on Meadowlands Drive, next to the SportsPlex.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners is a work session scheduled for Thursday (today) at the Southern Human Services Center. Items on the agenda include an update on the current fiscal year, next year's budget and a review of the federal economic stimulus plan.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

HOW TO REACH US
The Carrboro Citizen 942-2100
P.O. Box 248 942-2195 (FAX)
Carrboro, NC 27510

EDITORIAL editor@carrborocitizen.com

ADVERTISING marty@carrborocitizen.com 942-2100 ext. 2

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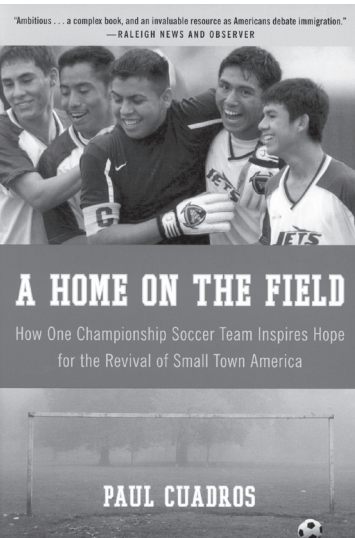
ONLINE carrborocitizen.com/main Updated every Thursday.

Professor’s book about Siler City soccer team chosen for UNC summer reading program

BY JASMINA NOGO
Staff Writer

“I was surprised and shocked when I received the phone call,” said Paul Cuadros, an assistant professor at the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication, about learning that his book, *A Home on the Field*, was chosen as the summer reading for the incoming class of 2013. Cuadros is the first UNC faculty member whose book has been selected for the program.

As part of its Summer Reading Program, UNC asks all incoming students to read a book during the summer and participate in small group discussions once they arrive in Chapel Hill. The program serves as an academic icebreaker that’s intended to stimulate critical thinking outside of the



classroom environment.

A Home on the Field explores the class and ethnic conflict that immigrants face in America through the story of a Latino high school soccer team in Siler City. With Cuadros as their coach, the men’s soc-

I hope the book will help students become more aware of what life is like for immigrants living in the U.S.

cer team at Jordan-Matthews High School climbed to a state championship despite significant social and immigration obstacles.

“I hope the book will help students become more aware of what life is like for immigrants living in the U.S.,” Cuadros said.

“He raises tough questions about what services and opportunities the state of North Car-

olina should make available to these immigrants,” said John McGowan, chairman of the book-selection committee.

A committee of nine students, faculty and staff began meeting last fall to select this year’s book for the program. The committee chose *A Home on the Field* from among 239 recommendations.

“It’s a great honor to be selected. It’s also a great honor for the journalism school,” Cuadros said. He added that the selection of his book is a testament to the school.

Cuadros is an award-winning investigative reporter who specializes in issues of race and poverty. He has been part of the UNC faculty since 2007.

He says he is currently working on another book about immigrants.

N.C. Comedy Arts Festival to fill town with laughs

BY SARAH SHAH
Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

If the roaring applause Friday night at DSI Comedy Theater’s filled-to-capacity Mister Diplomat show is any indication, the upcoming North Carolina Comedy Arts Festival promises to be a huge success.

From Feb. 12 to 21, nationally renowned comedians such as *Saturday Night Live* writer Bryan Tucker will be among hundreds that descend upon Carrboro for the ninth annual festival.

Formerly known as The Dirty South Improv Festival, this year the festival will be one week longer and, for the first time, will host stand-up comics.

“The country’s best comedy will be here in Carrboro,” said Zach Ward, the festival’s producer and DSI owner. “Only 30 percent of groups that submit to come are accepted.”

The festival’s lineup includes more than 200 comedy, improv and stand-up acts over a two-week period.

Katherine Ciccarelli, a UNC student, said she plans to attend a number of shows during the festival.

“I went last year and had a blast,” she said. “It’s just this huge laughfest. I can’t wait to go again.”

Performers range from the Beatbox, a group of rap and improv artists from Chicago, to UNC’s student comedy group, the Chapel Hill Players, known as CHiPs. Ward said he views the festival not only as a launching pad for the acts coming into town but for local performers as well.

“It’s important to local comedy because it showcases what is possible to a local audience,” he said.

Ward said that local groups may see something other performers try, and might be encouraged to try a new concept.



The festival, which will showcase at DSI Comedy Theater, Cat’s Cradle, The ArtsCenter, ArtsCenter West End Theater and the UNC campus, is modeled after the HBO-sponsored U.S. Comedy Festival held in Aspen.

Ward said that Carrboro is a small town, where you wouldn’t expect to find a comedy festival. He said that’s exactly why the shows are so successful.

“It’s a highly concentrated event in an unexpected place,” Ward said. “So professionals used to small theaters in big cities come, and they’re

greeted with an audience of 400 at Hamilton Hall. They think it’s awesome.”

A festival press release said Carrboro’s population increased by 4 percent and businesses earned an extra \$150,000 in spillover spending from the festival last year. Ward said these numbers, and the impact on downtown Carrboro, surprised him the most.

But he said the size and accessibility of Carrboro were likely factors.

“In Carrboro, it’s easy for people to walk and go eat dinner, go to the show and then go to a bar,” Ward said.

Pointing to the recession, Ward said that comedy has the benefit of making someone think critically without spiraling downward into a depression.

“Laughing is smiling out loud,” he said. “If you can’t laugh on a regular basis, there’s no purpose.”

He said watching a comedy act is like watching a person walk the high wire, and constantly wondering if that person will mess up.

“But the fact that people even attempt to walk the high wire makes the event worth going to,” he said.

Tickets for the festival range from \$7 to \$20 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at the festival’s website. Purchasing early is highly recommended, as more than half the shows sold out last year.

Ward said there is a reason people attend the festival.

“Can you guarantee every movie you see will be good?” he said. “I can guarantee that the success rate of the festival will be higher than Southpoint Cinemas.”

Sarah Shah is a UNC student writing for the Carrboro Commons, a bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Jock Lauterer’s Community Journalism class at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

ORDINANCE
FROM PAGE 1

But Hutchison said the ordinance only applies to the public property near the intersection and that people gather on the private property around the nearby convenience store.

Stephen Dear argued that the board should find a way to improve the situation without imposing an anti-lingering ordinance.

“I don’t recognize the Carrboro that I so admire in this ordinance,” he said. “It doesn’t encroach on civil

liberties – it’s a preemptive strike on civil liberties.”

“It has nothing to do with the very basic rights of American citizens,” he added.

Dear questioned whether concern would be so high if the men were white rather than Latino and encouraged the board to hear more

public comment on the ordinance before voting to keep it in place.

“We should be ashamed of this ordinance,” he said. “This is not what we’re about, and we all know this.”

The board will hold a public hearing on the anti-lingering ordinance on March 24.

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