

FRIDAY
10% Chance of Precip
90/67 °F

SATURDAY
10% Chance of Precip
92/68 °F

SUNDAY
20% Chance of Precip
88/68 °F

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Leaves of three, let them be/Leaves of five, stay alive

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Be certain you know the difference!

As described in last week's Flora, you want to avoid close contact with ornamental smooth sumac's viney cousin, poison ivy, *Rhus radicans*. Some of you will be eager to know that taxonomists have recently upgraded the name to its earlier nomenclature, *Toxicodendron radicans*. It sounds like "Tox-e-co-den-dron rad-e-cans" and is certainly more fun to roll off your tongue than is 'rus rad-e-cans.' *Toxicodendron* means poisonous tree, a clear warning to keep one's distance.

I continue to be surprised that, when guiding school groups at a local nature center, I encounter so many youngsters that cannot identify this common poisonous native vine. The earth guide's first action is to help the kids distinguish between the not-to-touch poison ivy and the, usually growing nearby, innocent Virginia creeper.

Compare in the photo above the poison ivy compound leaf of three with the Virginia creeper palmately (like a hand) compound leaf of five leaflets. Contact with sap of poison ivy causes a serious rash for most folks, while Virginia creeper is harmless.

Poison ivy can make a ground-covering carpet in sun and shade, and when it finds a tree to climb, the hairy stems are easy to spot as dark wooly cords clinging tightly to the trunk. In contrast, when Virginia creeper climbs a tree, the mature stems are free of such wooly hairs. The little holdfasts of young creeper stems resemble multiple tree frog feet clinging to vertical surfaces.

Both poison ivy and Virginia creeper have beautiful orange-

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 8

Vickers decision remembered

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO – In the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, where the importance of diversity is taught in classrooms and celebrated across campuses, it's difficult to imagine a time when all students weren't treated equally. But a short 50 years ago, when a 10-year-old black boy wanted to attend Carrboro Elementary School, then an all-white school, the school board denied his request, simply because of the color of his skin.

Aug. 4 marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark decision in the Vickers v. Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools case, and on Monday community members, elected officials and Stanley Vickers – that 10-year-old boy – came together to celebrate and commemorate the decision, in which U.S. District Court Judge Edwin Stanley ruled that Vickers was entitled to admission to a previously all-white school.

"The whole idea of having this celebration or commemoration ... is to make sure that we don't forget," said Eddie Davis, chair of Inclusive North Carolina and organizer of the gathering.

In 1959, Vickers' parents requested that he be allowed to attend Carrboro Elementary, which was closer to the family's Carrboro residence than the all-black Northside Elementary School. The school board voted 4-2 to deny the Vickers family's application, with UNC School of Law Dean Henry Brandis and First Baptist Church Rev. John Manley dissenting. Brandis later resigned from the board in protest.

SEE **VICKERS** PAGE 7



A humble Stanley Vickers credits his parents and the ones who did the heavy lifting so that he could attend a previously all-white school.

PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPEL

Cat's Cradle reopens with new look, free show

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

For the last 15 or so years, Carrboro institution Cat's Cradle has looked much the same as hundreds of thousands of visitors and musicians have crossed through the venue's doors.

Tonight (Thursday), Cradle visitors will have the opportunity to see a somewhat new-and-improved rock club, with a free show by The Old Ceremony to celebrate those changes.

"There's been a lot of things that over the course of the last 10 years I have picked up just working with other venues that I felt like could be improved on here at the Cradle," said Frank Heath, who co-owns the club with Billy Johnson.

Visitors will first notice a new entrance to the club, along the right side of the building.

"The way it's been set up for 15 years is so people walk by the stage when they walk in, which is not ideal," Heath said. "I think it's going to change

SEE **CRADLE** PAGE 4

Social justice champions honored

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – Celebrated through stories, song and poetry and remembered for their revolutionary work and dedication to fighting inequality, Yonni Chapman, Rebecca Clark, Rev. Charles M. Jones and Dan Politt were honored Sunday afternoon at the Peace and Justice Ceremony.

While the East Coast trembled through an earthquake the week prior to the ceremony, these four individuals were shaking the foundation Chapel Hill was built on long before. They all dedicated their lives to standing up for those without a voice, fighting for civil rights and seeing to it that Chapel Hill

SEE **PEACE & JUSTICE** PAGE 5



Sandi Chapman Osterkatz, daughter of Yonni Chapman, and Wes Tillman, supervisor for festivals and community celebrations for the Town of Chapel Hill, prepare to unveil the Peace and Justice Plaza marker with four new names at the Peace and Justice Ceremony on Sunday.

PHOTO BY ROSE LAUDICINA

Daphne Athas asks, 'Is this a myth?'

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

I'm bucking journalistic convention here. I'm insinuating myself into the narrative. I'm using the first-person singular. Daphne Athas inspired me.

Words never fail Daphne Athas, not for long. If the right one isn't immediately at hand, off she goes, on to another, seemingly unrelated but altogether integral topic, only to return, just when you thought you'd lost your way, to the word in question.

Perhaps it's one from her own collection – among which "hokery-pokery," "pickery-uppery" and "lookity-down" are to be found.

Athas doesn't break the rules; she rewrites them in an idiom her own and inclusive. In the legendary creative writing classes she taught at UNC for four decades, she accosted grammar and lifted its wallet. Her stylistics class was originally called "Glossolalia," roughly translated from its Greek origin as "speaking in tongues." In it, she encouraged her students to explore the flexibilities of language, to experiment with grammatical style and rhythm, using a variety of innovative exercises, including performance art.

She published a book called *Gram-o-Rama*: *Breaking the Rules* (well, OK, so maybe she does break a rule here and there), in which she carried forth her les-

sons to the masses.

Former student Dave Krinsky, now a writer for *King of the Hill*, wrote of the book, "Beware, *Gram-o-Rama* is a dangerous book. It takes the cautions and rules of grammar and drops them into a fun house. ... You could make a movie of this book. Or at least a theme park ride!"

How about a theme park ride modeled on Daphne Athas? Many who've had the pleasure of conversing with Athas in her nearly 88 years have tried to describe the experience – but none, I'll wager, have entirely succeeded.

I arrive at her home in Carrboro with half-a-dozen or so roughly sketched questions and three full hours to expend. Four hours later, I've neglected to glance at my list.

We meander from Aesop's Fables, through LSD, to Michelle Bachmann and Xenophon. We chat briefly about the movie *Pumping Iron*, the arc of Arnold Schwarzenegger's career, PACs and their influence, wampum, heritage, the Duke of Wellington and money supplanting standing.

Now we've begun.

Words bridge the divide (a slender one, Athas will tell you) between reality and myth. Words are the portal to a world of possibility.

"From the very beginning," she says, "I believed in literature, and that's what I was about."

She's made beautiful music of language, and that songbook is always before her.

Carrboro Magic

The subject was mythology. "My father talked at the dinner table about Aesop's Fables," Athas says, "about the myths. He talked as if they were real, so they *were* real."

From the beginning, she says, "I wanted to be a writer."

By her mid-20s, Athas had published her first novel, *The Weather of the Heart*. In 1971 came the somewhat autobiographical *Entering Ephesus*, which was selected by *Time Magazine* for its Ten Best Fiction List for the year.

Last year brought Athas's long-awaited "social memoir," *Chapel Hill in Plain Sight: Notes from the Other Side of the Tracks*.

For the cover of the book, the late Reynolds Price wrote: "The richness of vision in Daphne Athas's fiction has led many of her readers to hope that we could someday read a collection of her essays – Daphne speaking directly to us in Daphne's own voice. Now, in *Chapel Hill in Plain Sight*, we have exactly that; and a joy it is to read."

The book begins with Athas's 1938 transplantation from a storybook New England childhood to a shack, dubbed



Daphne Athas

PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPEL

by Athas and her family "The Shack," at the top of Merritt Mill Road in Chapel Hill.

"I was glad that our Shack was technically inside the Chapel Hill

SEE **DAPHNE ATHAS** PAGE 3

INSIDE

New county health plan in works

See page 3

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HOUSE Calls

Practicing family physicians from the UNC Department of Family Medicine have teamed up with *The Carrboro Citizen* to bring you a weekly feature responding to your questions about health and medicine. Send your questions or comments to yourhealth@unc.edu



This week we respond to questions about interval training and medical alert bracelets.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I would like to know if interval training helps with weight loss.

Interval training usually means that your exercise period is prolonged but punctuated by periods of higher intensity. Many cardiovascular exercise machines have an interval setting. In this case, you might be on the exercise bike for 30 minutes, but after a warm-up period, you might alternate two minutes of higher intensity with two minutes of lower intensity for the bulk of your workout, followed by a cool-down period. Similar effects can be achieved by alternating running with jogging or jogging with walking, depending on your level of conditioning. The same thing can be done in the pool or at an aerobics class. Athletes have known for decades how important this type of training is to improving strength,

speed and endurance. But lately this has been promoted for general fitness and weight loss. Some research supports that this helps with weight loss. We always talk about the importance of both strength and cardiovascular exercise for fitness and weight loss, and this is an efficient way to combine the two. The weight loss could be due to more calories burned or more muscle built. But there seems to be something going on with insulin at the cell level that we might not fully understand. So give it a try. It may make exercise more efficient.

Dear HOUSE Calls, When should someone wear a medical alert bracelet?

If you were unconscious and found by a paramedic, is there something about your health you wish you could tell him or her? Is there anything about your health that might make you more prone to falling or passing out? Medical alert bracelets are a cheap and

convenient insurance policy. People with diabetes, heart conditions, seizure disorders, serious allergies or dementia, or taking blood thinners or multiple drugs should all consider medical alert bracelets. If you are found unconscious, think about how much easier it would be for a first responder or a doctor to provide appropriate care if he or she knew you had a life-threatening reaction to bee stings, or that you are a diabetic on insulin. They can also provide vital contact data and identifying information if you happen to be out without your usual ID. They are easy to order online, and most pharmacies have information on where to order one.

HOUSE Calls is a weekly column by Dr. Adam Goldstein, Dr. Cristy Page and Dr. Adam Zolotor on behalf of Your Health and the UNC Department of Family Medicine.



TEMPORARILY REMINDED OF THE ILLUSION OF PERMANENCE, PEOPLE BECOME NICER. (ERNEST BECKER CHEW ON THAT.)

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

FLAGS OVER CARRBORO FOR IRENE

Hurricane flags fly at Southern Rail last weekend. Hurricane Irene made landfall near Cape Lookout early Saturday morning, leaving nearly 300,000 North Carolina residents without power, but largely sparing the Carrboro-Chapel Hill area.

PHOTO BY MIKE BENSON



MOVIE LISTINGS

We suggest you call for exact show times. All listings start Friday.

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM

309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030

Closed temporarily for renovations. Will reopen in August for the N.C. Gay & Lesbian Film Festival and resume regular movie screenings in October.

CHELSEA THEATER

Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005

Another Earth; Sarah's Key; The Debt

THE LUMINA

Southern Village, 932-9000

Apollo 18; Captain America: The First Avenger; Midnight in Paris; Our Idiot Brother; Shark Night; Sky Kids; All the Time in the World; The Help

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6

120 Banks Drive, 933-8600

Apollo 18; Colombiana; Don't Be Afraid of the Dark; Rise of the Planet of the Apes; Shark Night 3D; The Help

THE VARSITY

123 E. Franklin St., 967-8665

Bridesmaids; Super 8

Community Briefs



From left: Chapel Hill Police Officer Charlie Pardo, Carrboro Police Officers Joey Glenn, Trey Kennedy, Billy Austin and Stephen Champion

PHOTO COURTESY OF BINA RASKIN

Police complete crisis intervention training

During the first week of August, officers from the Carrboro Police Department completed Crisis Intervention Team training, a 40-hour course that provides officers with information on how to divert, when possible and appropriate, vulnerable people in crisis away from incarceration and toward treatment.

The program also informs officers about mental illness, substance abuse, disabilities, related treatment options and techniques to work well with people who are made vulnerable by related conditions.

IFC receives \$5K grant from BJ's

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service has received a \$5,000 grant from BJ's Charitable Foundation, which the IFC will use to purchase food for the Smith/Monk Food Pantry.

The grant was part of \$673,650 given out by BJ's to nonprofits assisting those in need. The IFC provides crisis intervention and assistance, as well as shelter, food, direct services, advocacy and information to people in dire need.

Historic Preservation Award for Miller

Last month, Chapel Hill's Jay Miller was named the winner of the Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit from Preservation North Carolina for the renovation of Murphey School.

The award is given to people and organizations that demonstrate commitment through leadership, research, philanthropy, promotion and/or personal participation in historic preservation. It will be presented to Miller at Preservation North Carolina's annual meeting in Mr. Airy on Sept. 30.

Home Trust fundraiser Sept. 9

The Community Home Trust and the Fenwick Foundation will host an Opening Doors fundraiser on Sept. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the fifth-floor event space at Greenbridge Condominiums.

Former Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy will be honored at the fundraiser for his dedication to affordable housing. He will receive the Cornerstone Award. ESPN analyst Hubert Davis will serve as Master of Ceremonies. There will be food, wine, beer and live music. A limited number of tickets are still available for \$40.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit community-hometruster.org/opening_doors

DSI to raise money for YMCA

DSI Comedy Theater is supporting the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA's We Build People Campaign with its annual YLaugh and 24LIVE comedy marathon beginning Wednesday from 8 to 10 p.m. at Top of the Hill's Great Room, where YLaugh will perform improvised games, songs and scenes all based on audience suggestions.

The festivities will move to DSI Comedy Theater Sept. 8-10 for a non-stop 24 hours of comedy with 24LIVE, including such comedians from throughout the region as Improve SLAM and Harold Night. Tickets for YLaugh are \$20; tickets for 24Live are \$24. Tickets and

details are online at dsicomedy.com or available by calling 338-8150.

Human relations awards nominations needed

The Orange County Human Relations Commission is soliciting nominations for the 2011 Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards. The award is presented annually to a youth, adult and business from Orange County that have served the community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice and human rights for all residents.

Oct. 31 is the deadline for submitting nominations. For applications or more information, visit www.co.orange.nc.us/housing/pmurray.asp or call 245-2489. Awards will be presented in February.

Keep the Learning Celebration flowing!

For 22 years, the Haw River Assembly has held its Learning Celebration, bringing in hundreds of fourth-graders to experience the wonders of the river. This year, they will bring in more than 1,500 students, but they need to raise the funds to do so.

So far, the assembly has raised \$375. The budget for the Learning Celebration is \$22,680. The assembly needs every donation possible to help fund the event. To donate, or for more information, visit haw-river.org

Carolina Tiger Rescue kicks off \$31,000 campaign

Carolina Tiger Rescue will adopt four tigers from the closed Wild Animal Orphanage in San Antonio, Texas. To do so, Carolina Tiger must build new habitats to accommodate these and future rescued cats.

Carolina Tiger is using a \$21,000 donation to kick off the campaign, but it still has to raise an additional \$10,000. To donate, visit carolinatigerrescue.org and click on donations, or mail a check payable to Carolina Tiger Rescue to 1940 Hanks Chapel Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Free fall parenting classes at UNC

UNC Family Medicine will host free parenting classes beginning Sept. 8 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 590 Manning Drive.

The classes will cover several topics, including understanding the secret language of your newborn and planning for a healthy pregnancy and birth. The classes are aimed at offering tips and techniques for parenting and a forum for participants to share their concerns.

Participation is limited. For more information, call 843-7678 or email donna_parker@med.unc.edu

Mental illness family classes

Family to Family is a series of 12 weekly classes structured to help family members understand and support a loved one with a serious mental illness.

There is no cost to attend. The classes run today (Thursday) through Nov. 17 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. each Thursday in the Dogwood Room at the Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill.

To register, contact Gove Elder at 967-5403 or at gelder5@nc.rr.com

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PHOTO 11-162

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News Briefs

Main Street sewage meeting

A meeting to discuss the sewage problem affecting business on Main Street in Carrboro will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at Carrboro Town Hall.

On Friday afternoon, Aug. 26, sewage began to discharge at ground level, causing some business to close early, which was encouraged by the Orange County Health Department. The problem was quickly fixed and cleaned up; however, it is only a temporary fix.

The meeting is open to the public and will include discussion by OWASA members, town officials and affected property owners.

Labor Day closings

In observance of Labor Day on Monday, most municipal offices will be closed.

Schedule changes include:

- Chapel Hill Transit will not operate;
- Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers will be closed;
- Orange County Landfill, including the Hazardous Household Waste Collection and mulch sales will be closed;
- Carrboro residential refuse scheduled for Monday collection will be collected on Tuesday;
- Chapel Hill residential refuse scheduled for Monday collection will be collected on Wednesday;
- the Orange County Public Library will be closed; and
- the Chapel Hill Public Library will operate on limited hours of 1 to 5 p.m.

Buses to the game on Saturday

Chapel Hill Transit will provide bus service on Saturday for the 3:30 p.m. UNC football game via the Tar Heel Express shuttle. It costs \$5 for a round-trip ticket and \$3 for one-way.

Service will start at 12:30 p.m. from the Friday Center and from University Mall next to Dillard's. Service from the park-and-rides at Southern Village and Jones Ferry Road will begin at 2 p.m.

The shuttles will run every 10 to 15 minutes from pick-up points to Kenan Stadium and will run for 45 minutes after the game.

For more information, call 969-4900 and press 1, or visit townofchapelhill.org/tarheelexpress

New OWASA board member

OWASA swore in a new board member, Terri Buckner, on Aug. 25.

Buckner previously served on the OWASA board from June 2005 to September 2006. She will serve on the Human Resources, Natural Resources/Technical Systems and Outreach and Education committees.

Buckner is employed with UNC as a business analyst. She holds a bachelor's degree from UNC in economics and a master of science in instructional systems from Florida State University.

Chatham board seeks pharmacist

The Chatham County Board of Health has a vacant seat and is looking for a registered pharmacist to fill it. The board of health creates the rules and policies for the Chatham County Public Health Department.

The board meets in Pittsboro on the fourth Monday of the month, at least 10 times a year. The person who fills the seat would serve until June 30, 2012 and would be eligible to serve a full three-year term if reappointed.

Interested applicants should submit a county board application form (found at chathamnc.org/Index.aspx?page=49) by Sept. 18. A form can also be obtained by mail by contacting Lindsay Ray, deputy clerk to the board of commissioners, at 545-8200.

Commissioners discuss new health plan

BY ROSE LAUDICINA

Staff Writer

As part of ongoing budget cuts, the Orange County Board of Commissioners must decide which of several proposed health care plans for county employees provides the best care for employees at the best price for the county. On Tuesday, board members voiced concerns regarding how employees would react to the changes and whether a recommended provider is really the best option.

The current health care plan for county employees provides a variety of benefits at no cost to employees without dependents, while those with dependents have a family-friendly policy, with the county paying a little more than half the cost.

Recently passed budget cuts have forced Orange County officials to look at the services the county provides and assess what services could be reduced and

where they could make more cost-efficient choices.

Three new health care options were presented to the board by Mark Browder of Mark III Brokerage, an independent insurance brokerage company that works with multiple counties around North Carolina.

Each plan had two options for employees to choose from, with different combinations of Health Management Organization (HMO), Point Of Service (POS) and Health Savings Account (HSA) health care. In option one, employees would be able to choose between HMO and POS plans and in option two, between HMO and HSA plans. Option three would have employees choose between POS and HSA plans.

Browder recommended that the board strongly consider option three because it is the most cost friendly for employees with dependents.

In addition to switching health

care plans, the county will switch their health care provider from CIGNA to United Healthcare Group, which Browder said provided the most competitive rates that fit in with the county's allotted health care budget.

County Manager Frank Clifton said employees likely won't be thrilled with the change, since, historically, county employees haven't paid for health insurance, but that it's the fault of the county for spoiling its employees.

Katherine Cathey, the interim human resources director for the county, agreed that employees likely won't be pleased with the change, adding that when talking with employees about the upcoming changes, they clearly want to keep what they have.

"Keeping an HMO with 100 percent paid by the county is just not a viable option," Cathey said.

Although the board is supposed to vote on a plan at its meeting on Tuesday, Commissioner Barry Jacobs said he isn't happy

with the recommendation to use United Healthcare Group.

Jacobs wants staff to revisit other health care options like CIGNA and Blue Cross Blue Shield, because he has found reviews about United Healthcare Group that are less than flattering.

Browder was quick to defend the United Healthcare Group, saying other counties have been very happy with the company.

"We are not seeing your complaints," Browder said. "We are not seeing what you are reading."

Browder added that if the county were to go with another provider, it would cost more; however, he said he would do as Jacobs directed and go back to discussing costs with other health care providers.

Commissioner Valerie Foushee urged the board to stick to the proposed timeline so employees will have the maximum amount of time to adjust to the new health care plan, which will go into effect Jan. 1.

DAPHNE ATHAS

FROM PAGE 1

limits," she writes, "which spared me from the onus of being from Carrboro" — though Carrboro would soon have magic to share.)

There she grew up with her two sisters and brother, with pleasures that surpassed the hardships. Athas's father, a stockbroker, had lost his money in The Great Depression. He wanted an education for his children, knew it could be had inexpensively in North Carolina, and, moreover, had been told by a man up North that Chapel Hill was the Athens of the South.

"I think Daddy liked that," Athas says.

Pan Constantine Athas was a Greek immigrant, a graduate of Harvard Law School, an eccentric and an explorer.

"He nosed around," Athas says. "My father explored everything. ... He'd just walk anywhere and talk with anybody. Be equal with anybody. He didn't consider himself lower or higher than anybody."

"Everything about my upbringing just completely didn't fit into a category," she says. "I never fit into a category." Nothing was practical about the Athases. "It was fantastic fun."

The Athas household was "the bohemian thing" to all comers, from university professors and students to ambitious young sons of Carrboro millworkers, like Wayne Williams, Athas's first boyfriend.

"I didn't belong to cliques," she says of her place in local society. "I didn't fit into any of them. I was acceptable to the top cliques, but I

wasn't that Sweet Briar type."

She and Williams "grooved on feeling like criminals," and occasionally appropriated inconsequential items, but only for good cause: "It was so unjust to be poor."

"We made an intellectual fetish out of being outcasts," Athas says of those days and nights — 4 a.m., walking the powder-dust streets of Carrboro, defining myths and articulating the ineffable — the two of them, reading everything, inspired by the outlaw artist/intellectuals, by Paul Green and Richard Wright, right here in Ephesus — shouting in the night.

They were drunk with learning — book learning and real-life — and felt its power.

In a story written this year for the Carrboro Centennial Commemorative (see "The romance of poverty" in last week's *Citizen*, 8/25/11), Athas writes:

One hot night past 2 a.m. in the summer of 1941 when Wayne and I were returning to Wayne's house from the library, we crossed over the railroad tracks and turned from the paved Carrboro Main Street onto the dirt road that was Weaver Street. In the fork, the wooden post office was dark. The town was fast asleep, not a whine even from flea-ridden dogs dreaming beneath the millhouses. We were conscious of our power. We could do anything.

They played with the shadows of branches, "a scrim of shadows magnified and distorted by the streetlights to three times their real size," shapes suggesting arms, motioning to them, pointing the way, but to where they couldn't know.

"It was magical," she says.

'The frontier is the now'

And it still is. Athas cavorts in those nights.

"I stay everywhere and nowhere," she says. "I think, 'Is this a myth?'"

The answer isn't forthcoming: "I feel as if I've lived my life in a search for reality."

"Where do I live?" she asks, then answers, "I'm very now-time oriented. But I can make now-time in writing that was 40 years ago."

Words can do that, access the past and the future, allowing us to better understand who we are — and who you are. Words are the combination that unlocks empathy.

Empathy: It's so much what Athas's life and work is about. Her concern, though, is that empathy is old-school now, having lost its place in an increasingly virtual world. But she's afraid that in saying so, she'll be dismissed as a casualty of frumpiness, of jaded fuddy-duddiness (my word; her inspiration).

But it would be a serious mistake to discount Athas's engagement in the world around her. A fall last winter slowed her down somewhat, but her recovery is coming along.

"To me, the frontier is the now. I don't know this world; it's a total mystery to me, and it's totally fascinating. I love it."

She worries with where we've arrived: "I don't think you can have a proper country with so few people at the top having so much money. How can it be possible to have a democracy that works like that?"

"Only rich people get thin. It's

crazy ... I could be a satirist, but I don't want to be. I take people seriously. I take the American ideals seriously. I don't want to disillusion myself."

In the everyday, "I look at people; I talk with people. They're nice."

"And everything is an adventure. Everything. Just going to the Harris Teeter. Someone saying, 'Do you need help?' I don't need help; I'm just out of synch, speed-wise."

But not otherwise. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about conversation with Daphne Athas is the curiosity with which she infuses it. "What do you think?" "Don't you agree?" She really wants to know. Is it a curiosity born of empathy, or the other way around? Regardless, curiosity is encoded in her words and shapes her world, a world that remains a mystery.

"I had so many stories told to me in my youth that I had millions of possibilities, millions of options. And then there was a whole library to get more myths, to find out what was true or what wasn't true."

"What is true? I think it's awfully relative." It's a little of that hokery-pokery.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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New-era Heels, new Kenan debut

BY EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer

Come Saturday at 3:30 p.m., for at least three, possibly four hours, Carolina's football players will lose themselves within the game they love enough to spend much of each year preparing to play.

When the Tar Heels kick off against James Madison at Kenan Stadium, a new end-zone building, complete with luxury-suite boxes and added stadium seating, will debut along with two new, enormous video boards resting atop the end-zone structures at both ends of the field.

The bricks, glass-enclosed boxes and additional seats are only part of what is new. After saying he had supported coach Butch Davis for nearly a year, Chancellor Holden Thorp did an about-face and fired Davis just days before preseason camp began.

In Davis' place, former defensive coordinator Everett Withers will walk the sidelines as interim head coach. Withers stands to be the beneficiary of the successful recruiting Davis and his staff did from the time he was hired in November of 2006.

If Withers feels anxious about this moment, he is not sharing.

"I usually don't get anxious about a game until Saturday morning," Withers said. "On Friday night, I can't wait to go to bed. I just want us, when we get on that bus, to come over here and win a ballgame."

Any successful football team has a strong foundation, and the

underpinning can usually be found along the offensive and defensive lines.

These Tar Heels are no different. This may well be the finest offensive line ever assembled at UNC, sporting a collection of athletes who range from 6 feet 2 inches to 6-8 and weigh anywhere from 310 to 340 pounds.

What makes these players special is that their size is not fat resting on slow legs. These kids are genuine athletes, eager to become road-pavers for first-year starting quarterback Bryn Renner and the collection of running backs taking the ball from him.

"They are a tight-knit group," Withers said of the offensive linemen. "[The starters] are just like coaches to the guys behind them. We'll go into the game with at least nine guys that we think can play in our offensive line. The knowledge, what Coach [Sam] Pittman has done with those guys, the teaching and how they understand that position, is outstanding.

"The third thing is the athleticism. You look at Jonathan Cooper; you look at James Hurst; you look at Travis Bond. You look at the athleticism of some guys with the size that they have, they can run. It's the strength of the team. We need to use it. It needs to be a focal point of what we do this year."

When Withers says the Tar Heels need to utilize this asset, he means offensive coordinator John Shoop must avoid the temptation to throw for the mere act of throwing.

"Getting to run behind those big guys is a blessing," said red-shirt running back Giovanni Bernard, who has been described by someone close to the team as the best-looking running back prospect at UNC in many years.

"Not every running back gets

to run behind such a good offensive line," Bernard said. "I'm grateful for that."

As strong as the offensive line appears, it is only half of the foundation. The defensive line has several legitimate professional prospects, starting with Quinton Coples. Coples has returned to defensive end after spending last season at tackle, gluing together a line that otherwise would have been torn apart by player indiscretions.

While Coples and fellow defensive end Donte Paige-Moss comprise a set of bookends as good as any in the country, sophomores Kareem Martin and Tim Jackson have added quality depth.

"It's good to have a guy like Kareem, who has gotten better every day he has been here," Withers said.

The major area of concern for this team is the secondary, which is thin in numbers and low on experience. A thumb injury will keep sophomore cornerback Jabari Price on the sideline for the early portion of the season. The ensuing domino effect knocked Tre Boston forward from safety to cornerback.

Secondary coach Troy Douglas is anxious for Boston to return to safety, a position at which Douglas believes Boston can become an elite performer.

The question that will be answered in the next few months is whether this team can continue to overcome the onslaught of controversy that seems to fill its path, regardless of direction.

If the Tar Heels can do that, they will have done more than escape for brief periods on Saturday afternoons and evenings. They will have achieved when even their own administration has done all it could to sabotage that possibility.

LADY JAGS CRUSH RIVERSIDE



Marissa Hunter Travers steals the ball from a Riverside player.



Catherine Foy maneuvers around a defender.



Neela Mahanty fights for possession of the ball.

The Carrboro High School field hockey team defeated Riverside High School, 8-0, in its season opener on Tuesday. Goals were scored by Claire Scott (3), Katie Minogue (2), Neela Mahanty (2) and Brianna Merrigan (1).

PHOTOS BY TED SPAULDING

CRADLE FROM PAGE 1

the dynamic of how the crowd is able to watch the shows, because there won't be this constant disruption of people walking in."

Heath said he also hopes the club will be able to add 100 people to its capacity by installing sprinklers. The sprinklers are already in, but he's awaiting final word from the fire marshal before officially changing the capacity, which is about 600.

"In general, we have a good number of shows that sell out here, so a lot of these shows we could probably sell another 100 tickets to," Heath said. "We'd be able to increase our revenues, increase the ability of people to see shows - everybody would win."

Other renovations include changes that Heath hopes will

increase the amount of usable viewing space in the Cradle.

"We've added 6 inches to the height of the stage so that people can see better from pretty much anywhere, and especially the shorter among us will benefit from that," he said. "In any club, it's sort of a challenge to find the right spot, and that will hopefully help."

In addition, staff removed a number of risers from the club, increasing the open space and hopefully the free flow of movement. Other changes include some fresh paint and improvements to the floor and sound system.

Heath said the staff will observe over the next few months how the changes affect the flow and viewing experience at the club, then probably make a few more improvements accordingly.

Although the planned 300 East Main project - which in-

cludes the redevelopment of properties extending from the intersection of Main and Boyd streets near Nice Price Books to the present municipal parking lot on the corner of Main and Roberson streets - is set to begin within a number of weeks, Heath said he wanted to go ahead with the improvements because it is unclear exactly when the part of the project that includes the Cradle will begin. Developers have indicated that phase of the project could begin as early as late 2012 or early 2013.

"It seemed like the right time to do it, regardless of timing for the project," he said. "The area is just so vibrant now and I feel like the music scene, the local scene as well as the national scene ... deserves to have the production setup that they need to put on the best show."

"I think that [the upfit] will give us a better opportunity to

land some of the shows that historically, over the past 10 years, have gone to some of the college auditoriums," he added.

The Cradle - which is 41 years old - has been in its current space for 18 years, and Heath said he wants to stay at 300 East Main, even as the property is redeveloped.

"The vibe of Carrboro and the vibe of this two-block area I think is about as welcoming as you can expect from the environs of a rock club. We're pretty happy about the way that things generally unfold for the bands when they show up here," he said.

Tonight, Heath hopes community members will come out to the Cradle to check out the improvements and The Old Ceremony - "a warm and fun band with a lot of great local ties," he said.

The show starts at 9 p.m.; doors open at 8.

Football Scores

CARRBORO (2-0)

Aug. 29: defeated Warren County, 36-18 (game was postponed from Aug. 26)
Sep. 2: at Orange

CHAPEL HILL (2-0)

Aug. 26: defeated East Chapel Hill, 31-10
Sep. 2: at Riverside

EAST CHAPEL HILL (0-2)

Aug. 26: lost to Chapel Hill, 31-10
Sep. 2: at Cedar Ridge

ORANGE (1-1)

Aug. 26: lost to Cedar Ridge, 49-43
Sep. 2: vs. Carrboro

CEDAR RIDGE (1-1)

Aug. 26: defeated Orange, 49-43
Sep. 2: vs. East Chapel Hill

NORTHWOOD (0-2)

Aug. 26: lost to Southern Lee, 29-28
Sep. 2: at Jordan-Matthews

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Please have your bins out by 7:00am!

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Normal hours of operation will resume Tuesday September 6th.

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SHEMOKIA COPELAND • SUN 9/11
LOS LONELY BOYS • FRI 9/16
ADRIAN BELEV POWER TRIO AND STICK MEN FEATURING TONY LEVIN AND PAT MASTELOTTO • TUE 9/20
JACOB'S LADDER • THU 9/22
WOODY WITT & THE QUANTUM MECHANICS • FRI 9/23
WHY? WITH SERENGETI • SAT 9/24
BLUE RODEO • THUR 9/29
AN EVENING WITH SHELBY LYNNE • FRI 9/30
FUNNY BUSINESS LIVE: KYLE DUNNIGAN (COMEDY PERFORMANCE) • SAT 10/1
PETER LAMB & THE WOLVES • SUN 10/2
LEON REDBONE • THU 10/6

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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Kindergarten teacher Brenda Stephans leads her class in song to welcome them to the first full day of school.



Sammy Hileman makes his own tracks toward his first day of school as a Carrboro Elementary School Cub.

The first day of kindergarten in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools was Monday.

PHOTOS BY ALICIA STEMPER



Gabriel Walden walks into Carrboro Elementary School on the first day of kindergarten with his mother, Beth.

School Briefs

Culbreth student takes cupcake prize

Paulina Garcia Hernandez, a sixth-grader at Culbreth Middle School, took the top prize of \$100 in the Third Annual Horace Williams Memorial Cupcake Festival held on Aug. 20.

Hernandez defeated 29 other contestants, including professional bakers, with her "Cuckoo Coconut" cupcakes. Hernandez baked the cupcakes with Diane Leusky, a mentor from the Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program.

Remember New York at CHHS

The Chapel Hill High School Drama Department will present Remember New York on Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Hanes Theatre at CHHS to honor those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, along with the survivors and the family and friends of all victims.

Bill Melega, CHHS social studies teacher, will host the free event, including the play *New York* by David Rimmer, a special performance by the CHHS teacher band, guest speakers who were in New York City during the attack and a video montage of local reactions and responses 10 years later.

School Lunch Menus

FRIDAY 9/2

Elementary: Chicken Nuggets, Penne Pasta w/ Meat Sauce, Vegetarian Baked Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Fresh Apple, Blueberry-Peach Crumble.

Middle and High School: Pulled BBQ Pork Sandwich, Ranch Potato Wedges

MONDAY 9/5

No School

TUESDAY 9/6

Elementary: Beef Tacos, Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Grilled Chicken Salad, Black Bean & Corn Salsa, Steamed Turnip Greens, Fresh Apple, Raisins

Middle and High School: Fajita Chicken, Been Taco Meat, Tortillas, Brown Rice, Southwest Black Beans

WEDNESDAY 9/7

Elementary: Meatloaf w/ Wheat Roll, Pepperoni Pizza, Cheese Quesadilla w/ Salsa, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Salad, Apple Crumble, Orange Smiles

Middle and High School: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Wheat Roll, Mixed Vegetables

THURSDAY 9/8

Elementary: Baked Ziti w/ Garlic Bread, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Chicken Caesar Salad, Glazed Carrots, Wild Greens Salad, Fruited Jell-o, Banana

Middle and High School: Sweet & Sour Chicken, Oriental Brown Rice, Seasoned Green Peas, Pear Crumble

PEACE & JUSTICE FROM PAGE 1

was a place for everyone to be treated as equals.

"They stood up to the fierce winds of injustice and they stood up to the fierce earthquakes of inequality," Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP, said about the four honorees.

The ceremony took place outside at the Peace and Justice Plaza, located in front of the post office/courthouse on Franklin Street — a place Danny Pollitt, son of honoree Dan Pollitt, a former UNC law professor, said was probably his dad's favorite street corner in the world. It is the street corner where many protested, demonstrated and held vigils for issues ranging from the Vietnam War and the war in Iraq to racial justice and the death penalty.

The children of Pollitt and Chapman, grandchild of Jones and close personal friend of Clark spoke to the large crowd of attendees about how the honorees were a friend to all and tirelessly worked for justice, never stopping, even when their battles had been won.

"She had inexhaustible supplies of strength and commitment," said Reginald Hildebrand of Clark. "By showing respect to her, this community honors itself."

During her speech, Sandi Osterkatz, Chapman's daughter, said that the work her father did isn't over, even though he is gone. This was a sentiment echoed by Jones' grandchild, Karen Abbotts, who said she

"They stood up to the fierce winds of injustice and they stood up to the fierce earthquakes of inequality."

—Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP

hopes her grandfather's "aspirations are not burned with his ashes."

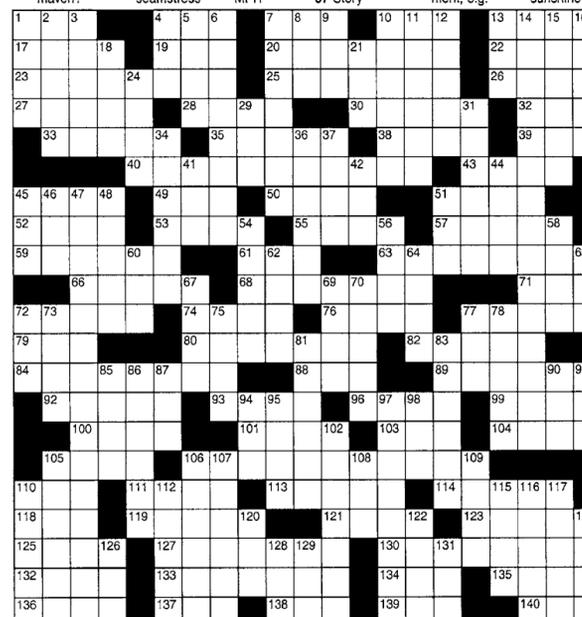
These words of hope and remembrance are why Ann Powers, a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, attended the ceremony. Powers personally knew those being honored and worked with Chapman and Pollitt as members of WILPF. She came to honor their memories and help preserve their spirits.

"I was here to be inspired and to remember to keep up the fight, which they did with grace not anger," Powers said.

The honorees names were added to a marker that was dedicated in 2009 to celebrate the lives of those who stood up and spoke out against injustice and for what they believed was right. Chapman, Clark, Jones and Pollitt are the newest additions to the plaque, which already contains the names of nine others who are celebrated for their life-long dedication to fighting inequality and promoting peace and justice.

SUPER CROSSWORD WORD PLAY

- ACROSS**
- 1 My country, — of the ...
 - 4 Apply gently
 - 7 Theater sign
 - 10 Singer Sumac
 - 13 West or Faith
 - 17 Audiophiles' equipment
 - 19 Drop a brick
 - 20 Israeli city
 - 22 Seedy spot
 - 23 —TBALL
 - 25 Varnish ingredient
 - 26 On a cruise
 - 27 Flynn of films
 - 28 Port —, Egypt
 - 30 Harden
 - 32 Jillian of "It's a Living"
 - 33 Dubuque denizen
 - 35 Checker move?
 - 38 Famed loch
 - 40 PL—
 - 41 ARIUM
 - 43 Tipple
 - 45 Conservative skit
 - 49 Raven maven?
 - 50 Burrowing critter
 - 51 Bound singer
 - 52 Gray or Moran (58 tune)
 - 53 It'll curl your hair
 - 55 Salamander
 - 57 Bodybuilder
 - 59 Actor
 - 61 Scrape by, with "out"
 - 63 Investigate
 - 66 Baseball's
 - 68 BRAIN—
 - 71 Debtor's letters
 - 72 "— Dawn" ("73 song)
 - 74 Shrimpton or Stapleton
 - 76 Help a
 - 78 Poet
 - 79 Rossetti
 - 80 SC—ION
 - 82 CAP—URE
 - 83 Coalition (cheaply)
 - 84 Albert's wife
 - 88 — Cruces, NM
 - 89 Standardize
 - 92 Bathrobe
 - 93 "La Boheme" seamstress
 - 96 Reverberate
 - 99 "Orinoco Flow" singer
 - 100 "— Dinah" (58 tune)
 - 101 Broad bean
 - 103 Corn portion
 - 104 Read quickly
 - 105 "The Three Musketeers" prop
 - 106 BOBO—
 - 110 HST's successor
 - 111 "— patriae"
 - 113 Kroy of "Married ... with ..."
 - 114 Couches
 - 118 Above, to Arnold
 - 119 "Toil" author
 - 121 "—pazz"
 - 123 Probooscises
 - 125 — Major
 - 127 Word with oil or water
 - 130 CAP—URE
 - 132 Coalition (cheaply)
 - 133 Morgiana's master
 - 134 Indian export
 - 135 "Rosanna" rockers
 - 136 Nomad pad
 - 137 Wine word
 - 138 Part of MPH
 - 139 Sneak a peek
 - 140 Apex
 - 1 Use the VCR
 - 2 Japanese porcelain
 - 3 Richard's veep
 - 4 Strauss' "—"
 - 5 Son of Zeus
 - 6 Reus
 - 7 Arena
 - 8 — room
 - 9 Seville shout
 - 10 DeCarlo of "The Munsters"
 - 11 Stately dance
 - 12 Maintains
 - 13 Orthodontists' org.
 - 14 ST—WEED
 - 15 Main drag
 - 16 Intended
 - 18 Singa
 - 19 Pinetoe
 - 21 Consumed a knish
 - 24 Defect
 - 29 — Jima
 - 31 Graceland, for one
 - 34 Lad
 - 36 The Rolling
 - 37 Story
 - 87 Bread or booze
 - 88 Modern
 - 89 —
 - 90 Memo letters
 - 91 Tasty tuber
 - 94 "No —, ands, ..."
 - 95 Bulk
 - 97 Orchestra members
 - 98 "Ball —"
 - 102 Bony
 - 105 Swimmer
 - 106 Gertrude
 - 107 Portable
 - 108 Paradoxical
 - 109 Predatory fish
 - 109 Hawaiian coffee
 - 110 Reservation
 - 112 Michelle and Cass
 - 115 Racing legend
 - 116 English course?
 - 117 Cold-war assn.
 - 120 CSA soldier
 - 122 How-to
 - 123 "De —"
 - 124 Word in an octagon
 - 126 Make believe
 - 128 Seance sound
 - 129 Lyman or Lincoln
 - 131 Bit of sunshine



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CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAHCYAPLM is WORDSWORTH. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the two O's, Y for the two W's, etc.. Apostrophes, punctuation, the length and formation of the words are all hints.

New Style Needed

E D ' K H A X Q , B Q E C C F X I T .
 - N H Q T K R F I Y D X T S W
 F V Y T Q X T K H B G E S W I Y K
 O H R U E Y P G X I T X Q
 O V I O O I Q P I T T I B E , N F H
 T E K I M M X I Q X T I B D X Q
 Q X S X G K D H H U R H Y D Q H G
 H B O H K D H B D F X
 R I M E D I G , D Q E M H G E
 Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

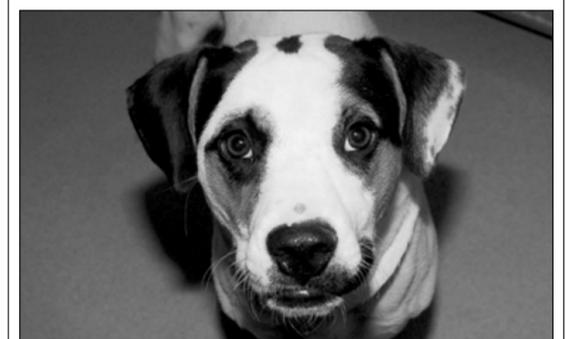
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
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PET OF THE WEEK

ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Meet **Barkley!** This sweet boxer mix is around 2 years old and absolutely gorgeous. This unique boy may first catch your eye for his looks, but it will be his personality that wins you over in the long run. Barkley is social and outgoing, with a great balance of manners and playfulness. His gentle, yet happy-go-lucky personality is sure to keep you in a good mood whenever he's around! Visit him today at Orange County Animal Services, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill. You can also see him and other adoptable animals online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp



THE CARRBORO
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RESOLUTION

In recognition
of the 50th
anniversary of
the Vickers civil
rights decision*Editor's Note: The following is a resolution passed by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen last week.*

WHEREAS, the town of Carrboro, North Carolina has been an incorporated community for 100 years; and

WHEREAS, many events and individuals have added to the respect for diversity and inclusion and the appreciation for creative problem-solving that are two of the pillars upon which the modern town of Carrboro stands; and

WHEREAS, this centennial year includes the fiftieth anniversary of the civil rights federal court case of former Carrboro resident Stanley Vickers; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Carrboro residents Lee and Lattice Vickers requested that their son, Stanley, attend Carrboro Elementary School, then an all-white school, rather than more distant, then, all-black Northside Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board voted 4-2 to deny the Stanley Vickers request to transfer to Carrboro School, with two members of the school board, Henry Brandis and J.R. Manley, dissenting; and

WHEREAS, at the time, Brandis was the dean of the UNC School of Law and Manley was, and still is, the pastor of First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, the reasoned votes of Dean Brandis and Rev. Manley forecast the federal court decision by Judge Edwin Stanley in the landmark case of Vickers v. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, in that case, which was originally filed on behalf of the Vickers family by attorneys Conrad Pearson and Thurgood Marshall, the judge ruled that the constitutional rights of Stanley Vickers had been violated solely because of his race; and

WHEREAS, the Vickers decision advanced equal access to public schools in Chapel Hill-Carrboro, in North Carolina and across the Southeastern United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, members of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, salute the courage, the conviction, and the sacrifice of the Vickers family and their multi-racial supporters in Carrboro and elsewhere;

AND, that the members of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen praise the 1961 Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board for the model of cooperation and inclusion set in the Carrboro and Chapel Hill school district and the entire state of North Carolina with their vote to reassign Stanley Vickers and three other black students to the previously all-white Chapel Hill Junior High School during their meeting on August 29, 1961.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in recognition of this anniversary, the members of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen declare Monday, August 29, 2011 Stanley B. Vickers Diversity Appreciation Day in the town of Carrboro, North Carolina.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. We will publish one letter per author per month. Lengthy letters written in longhand will mysteriously become lost. Emailed letters are preferred. That said, send your letters to:

Letters to the editor
Box 248
Carrboro, NC 27510
susan@carrborocitizen.com



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER



"AND YET PEOPLE SAY THEY AREN'T JOB CREATORS."

Goodnight, Irene

KIRK ROSS

Like a lot of you, I clocked a few hours watching Hurricane Irene roll up the North Carolina coast last week. It's been a while since we've seen a storm that large and threatening, and I guess I hadn't noticed in the interim how much more attached I've become to the water's edge.

It started with some writing assignments several years ago, which led to an incurable spate of wanderlust. Then for the past year, the Mrs. and I fulfilled a lifelong dream and managed to scrap up the pennies to lease a little place down on the coast with some friends. We get there when we can, and each time we do it feels a little more like home.

She grew up landlocked in the Hoosier flatlands. I escaped and enjoyed the shore in many places — climbed palms in Miami, fished off the seawall at Gloucester, lolled on the pink sands of Bermuda, camped out among frisky spring breakers and fully clothed Mennonites on the fine white sands of Siesta Key, waded in water the color of weak tea off Bay St. Louis, followed the Russian River into the sunset and scampered into the cold surf at Old Orchard in Maine (and back out as fast as I could).

None of them, friends, compares to that stretch about 200 miles to our east where the land and sea and sky all meet. I like some of those other coastlines; I love ours.

I'm just starting to figure out how to do it justice with words, so pardon me if I wait a few years before getting all purple over spartina grass and decaying oyster boats.

I love it for all the same reasons every weekly newspaper columnist in North Carolina ever cited while getting all sappy about the natural beauty of the place. Billy Arthur, Holley Mack Bell, Sam Ragan — you should read 'em some-

time, they were geniuses at it.

And I love it because at its heart the coast is small-town North Carolina, full of some of the nicest people you'd ever want to meet. Even the gruff old sailors. Especially the gruff old sailors.

The rest of the state probably thinks of the place now a bit too much like the rest of the world does, as a touristy spot and a fair-weather destination. But in relative terms, the vacation paradise thing is fairly new — barely a hundred years old at best — in the thousand or so years of human history there.

And although the tide of development has taken its toll, each year as the vacation season melts away, the older ways still stand out. You look down the street at the collection of condos and cottages and there's just a couple of lights burning and a TV or two flickering. Traffic is rare and almost no one's walking the beach with flashlights blazing. The climate can be unpredictable, rough and with relentless wind. It's not a natural place for year-round human habitation. So in the little spots where the tribe does gather, hospitality is interwoven with a sense that we're all in this together.

There's a local knowledge that what exists on these shifting sands is impermanent; no argument really over whether man or nature rules in the long run.

I watched Irene roll up the coast noting her track, the storm surge and the wind speed, like I always do. But more than ever before I worried over the people in its way. They're no longer strangers. They have names. They have kids and grandkids. They have little dogs, favorite barstools, new trucks and old stories — lots of them.

And I hope everybody came through OK.

BIG
CITY

Tillis' town hall tales

CHRIS FITZSIMON

House Speaker Thom Tillis' town hall tour continues with an appearance this week in Clayton and meetings scheduled in September for Wilmington and Salisbury.

The state's political reporters haven't been writing much about the events, which is a bit puzzling since Tillis is now arguably the second most powerful person in our state government.

Maybe it's because most of the meetings have been held outside the state's major media markets in places like Kinston, Winterville and Rocky Mount, and media outlets don't have the staff they used to. Lately the appearances have been overshadowed by Hurricane Irene, both the preparations for the storm and now the recovery.

Here is a rundown of some of Tillis' more interesting remarks in Rocky Mount last week, reviewed thanks to a local Rocky Mount television station that recently posted a video of the entire town hall meeting online.

Tillis seemed to bristle most at suggestions that the Republican budget is costing the state jobs, and that state budget cuts are forcing local school systems to lay off teachers and teacher assistants.

Tillis again cited a study by the Center for Competitive Economies at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC as evidence that the budget will create jobs, not eliminate them.

Tillis called Kenan-Flagler an institution that some would consider "liberal-leaning," which will no doubt come as a surprise to leaders of the school and the corporate executives who have a close relationship with it.

He didn't mention that the study was commissioned by legislative leaders and only looked at the impact of the tax cuts in the budget, ignoring the effect of the massive budget cuts on employment.

The N.C. Budget and Tax Center released a report last week that examined the impact of both the tax reductions and the budget cuts using the same methodology and economic modeling software as the UNC study and found that the budget will actually cost the state more than 30,000 jobs.

Tillis also brushed aside claims that the budget was responsible for the widespread layoffs of teachers and teacher

assistants, saying that "most of the wild claims have gone away" and pointing to a handful of large school districts that are retaining teachers and even hiring new ones using leftover federal stimulus money.

Earlier in the meeting, Tillis claimed that Republicans straightened out a structural deficit in the state budget that he said was partially caused by the Democrats' decision to use federal stimulus money, the very practice he then praised large school systems for using this year.

And the "wild claims" have hardly gone away. Thousands of teachers, teacher assistants and other school personnel have been laid off across the state as local newspapers and the Employment Security Commission have reported.

The speaker was at his most confusing when explaining the status of the strict voter ID legislation that passed the House and Senate and was vetoed by Gov. Beverly Perdue.

Tillis said he had been willing to compromise with Perdue and the Democrats on a scaled-down version of the bill after what he called "legitimate concerns" were raised with him about the bill's impact on the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to vote.

But when the compromise voter ID bill was not accepted by Perdue and Democratic lawmakers, Tillis said he decided to revert back to the stricter original version of the legislation, and that is what passed the House and Senate only to be vetoed by Perdue.

Apparently the legitimate concerns of seniors and the disabled community were no longer worth considering. Politics was more important.

Tillis does deserve credit for talking directly to voters and answering their questions. But it would be even more helpful if he would answer straightforwardly, without relying on half-baked studies and doubletalk about federal stimulus funding.

But that would mean the voters would get a clear picture of what really happened in the General Assembly this year, and what it means for North Carolina.

And Tillis and his Republican colleagues certainly don't want that.

Chris Fitzsimon is the executive director of N.C. Policy Watch.

Protest
marches
rather than
parades

ROBERT REICH

Labor Day is traditionally a time for picnics and parades. But this year is no picnic for American workers, and a protest march would be more appropriate than a parade.

Not only are 25 million unemployed or underemployed, but American companies continue to cut wages and benefits. The median wage is still dropping, adjusted for inflation. High unemployment has given employers extra bargaining leverage to wring out wage concessions.

All told, it's been the worst decade for American workers in a century. According to Commerce Department data, private-sector wage gains over the last decade have even lagged behind wage gains during the decade of the Great Depression (4 percent over the last 10 years, adjusted for inflation, versus 5 percent from 1929 to 1939).

Big American corporations are making more money, and creating more jobs, outside the United States than in it. If corporations are people, as the Supreme Court's twisted logic now insists, most of the big ones headquartered here are rapidly losing their American identity.

CEO pay meanwhile has soared. The median value of salaries, bonuses and long-term incentive awards for CEOs at 350 big American companies surged 11 percent last year to \$9.3 million (according to a study of proxy statements conducted for the *Wall Street Journal* by the management consultancy Hay Group). Bonuses have surged 19.7 percent.

This doesn't even include all those stock options rewarded to CEOs at rock-bottom prices in 2008 and 2009. Stock prices have ballooned since then, the current

*American
workers should
march in protest.*

downdraft notwithstanding. In March 2009, for example, Ford CEO Alan Mulally received a grant of options and restricted shares worth an estimated \$16 million at the time. But Ford is now showing large profits — in part because the UAW agreed to allow Ford to give its new hires roughly half the wages of older Ford workers — and its share prices have responded. Mulally's 2009 grant is now worth over \$200 million.

The ratio of corporate profits to wages is now higher than at any time since just before the Great Depression.

Meanwhile, the American economy has all but stopped growing — in large part because consumers (whose spending is 70 percent of GDP) are also workers whose jobs and wages are under assault.

Perhaps there would still be something to celebrate on Labor Day if the government was coming to the rescue. But Washington is paralyzed. The president seems unwilling or unable to take on labor-bashing Republicans and several Republican governors are mounting direct assaults on organized labor (see Indiana, Ohio, Maine and Wisconsin, for example).

So let's bag the picnics and parades this Labor Day. American workers should march in protest. They're getting the worst deal they've had since before Labor Day was invented — and the economy is suffering as a result.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley.

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Published Thursdays

by Carrboro Citizen, LLC.



MEMBER, NC PRESS ASSOCIATION

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

red fall color that becomes noticeable in the interior of many trees at summer's end.

At this time of year, you may spot the fleeting beauty of Virginia creeper berries turning dark blue on contrasting red stems. The berries of poison ivy are whitish and not very attractive.

The berries of both vines are important food for birds and other wildlife. Seeds of both are cleaned in the digestive tracts of birds and dropped everywhere. Appreciating the fall color and wildlife value of both vines, I am happy to welcome them in my wild landscape, allowing free reign to Virginia creeper, but trying to restrict poison ivy to the back edges, mostly beyond easy reach.

Virginia creeper's official name, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, is even more melodious than poison ivy's name. The genus name is derived from the Greek, *parthenos* – virgin – and *cissos* – ivy. Imagine a botanist naming this newly discovered "ivy" from the Virginia colony in honor of the "virgin" Queen Elizabeth I several hundred years ago. The species name, from the Latin, *quinque* – five – and *folium* – leaf – is purely descriptive of the vine's five leaflets.

Enjoy remembering the botanical name; it's great fun to hear it roll off of your tongue. It sounds like "par-thee-no-siss-us quink-a-fol-lee-ah." Now try saying the botanical names of both vines out loud and with a little practice, you're armed to surprise your companions when you discover one or both on your next walk.

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at The Annotated Flora (carrborocitizen.com/flora).



Tree-climbing poison ivy vines are dark and densely hairy. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Beautiful Virginia creeper dark berries on red stems signal a tasty treat for birds. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Virginia creeper vines climb via tiny holdfasts. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Drop-Add, 1963

Around this time of year, if you were a UNC student back in 1963 wanting to drop a class and add another, you went to sweltering Woollen Gym, stood in a long line and spoke to an actual person, who made all the changes on paper. Two things jump out from this "Drop-Add" photo from my freshman year: the absence of computers and the presence of a smoking student. And I love the body language in this picture – the hapless/hopeful student vs. the unflappable veteran drop-add staffer.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Email your photo to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.

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