

FRIDAY
Party Cloudy
47/27

SATURDAY
Party Cloudy
47/29

SUNDAY
Clear
49/23

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Smith and Phillips
Middle Schools
honor rolls



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Deciduous holly is spectacular against a clear blue sky.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Spectacular deciduous hollies

Watching the berries of native deciduous hollies become more spectacular as they drop their leaves has moved me to declare that I do have a favorite tree. That is, I have a favorite small tree. It is the red-berried deciduous holly, *Ilex decidua*! Though holly fruit are correctly termed drupes, most of us call them berries, and this year the deciduous holly berries really sparkle. Deciduous holly, a single- or multi-trunk small tree is commonly called possum haw. Now who is going to get really excited about a tree with that name? I would like to know the story behind that one.

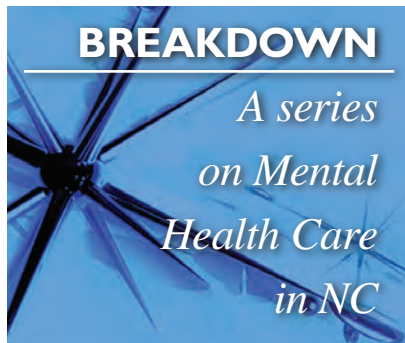
Common in woods throughout the Piedmont and coastal plain, this little tree is thoughtlessly destroyed when forests are thinned or cleared for new residential development. Unlike the more easily recognized evergreen, spiny-leaved American Holly, *Ilex opaca*, deciduous hollies are seldom noticed in our local woods. The severe drought last year caused most of the holly berries to shrivel and drop off. This year's rains have allowed the hollies to really shine.

You may spot another deciduous holly, *Ilex verticillata*, winter-berry, a multi-stem large shrub that is common in wet habitats throughout the entire state. Its red berries, though often larger and brighter than the berries of its larger cousin, don't seem to last as long. I believe the birds relish the flavor of the shrub deciduous holly more than the berries of the small tree species. Unless a flock of cedar waxwings or robins "de-berry" a deciduous holly tree in midwinter, those red berries will hang on into spring.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

The will to find a better way

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer



This story is the sixth in a series about mental health care in North Carolina. To read the previous stories in this series, go to www.carrborocitizen.com/main/2008/10/04/breakdown-series/

Nicholas Stratas refers to mental illness as a "fragmenting" problem.

Stratas, a Raleigh-based psychiatrist and former state deputy commissioner of mental health, explains that as we become adults, individuation takes place – boundaries develop, thoughts, feelings and actions are forged – and we go through a process of internal integration. We begin to form relationships.

But with mental illness, instead of integration there is fragmentation, and that restricts our ability to connect with other people. Family relationships suffer, and problems often spill over into the wider community.

Consequently, what's needed is a unified, community-based approach to mental illness. What we have now in North Carolina is a fragmented effort, says Stratas.

His sentiments are echoed by mental health advocates throughout the state. We've suffered, they say, from a lack of leadership and the absence of a cohesive vision of how to deal with those who are stigmatized because of their disease.

They argue for an approach that brings to the table the objectives and concerns of those with mental illness, their families and mental health care professionals – voices that have been inadequately heard for at least three decades. They also argue for a firm commitment of resources and money.

'Enormous damage'

Last spring, Gov. Mike Easley vowed to fix our mental health care system by the time he left office.

But as he transitions out, the system is largely in shambles. State institutions

are overcrowded and are losing federal funding. The new \$138 million facility in Butner, Central Regional Hospital, has just been determined by state inspectors to be unsafe. And mental health care services are all but nonexistent in many areas of the state. In sum, the measures promised by House Bill 381, the reform legislation passed in 2001 that called for moving the mentally ill out of state institutions and into community-based services and for those services to be offered by private providers, have failed.

"Assuming he's a good man," says Stratas of Easley, "I'll say he's managed by remote control. He's out of touch."

"This culture of neglect [in the state institutions] we've read so much about lately begins at the top."

SEE BETTER WAY PAGE 7



Triangle Youth Ballet

PHOTO BY CATHERINE CARTER

Busy holiday weekend ahead

This weekend is as packed with holiday fun as a stocking on Christmas morning. On Friday, Carrboro Town Hall will light its Christmas tree. Music and family fun accompanies the tree lighting, which takes place at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, The Emerson Waldorf School will feature crafts, games, food, music, and even puppet shows, storytelling and a Holiday pageant, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The school is at 6211 New Jericho Road.

On Sunday, Fearrington Village hosts a Holiday Market from noon to 4 p.m. with live music and local arts and crafts for sale. Shoppers can sip wine and munch chestnuts while they browse. Shoppers are also welcome to donate canned food to the Chatham Outreach Alliance.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Triangle Youth Ballet will perform *The Nutcracker* at Chapel Hill High

School. Saturday's performance is at 7 p.m., Sunday's at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 932-2676 or get them at Balloons and Tunes in Carrboro, Cameron's at University Mall, Dance Design at Ram's Plaza or the Regulator Bookshop in Durham.

And Santa will be at University Mall all weekend from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For each photo taken with Santa, \$1 will be donated to the North Carolina Children's Hospital.

Also this weekend is the first in the Chatham Studio Tour series, wherein visitors can meet with artists in their workshops to get a first-hand look at the creative process and to shop for unique gifts. Studios are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Full information, including a map, is available at www.chathamstudiotour.com

Aldermen support same-sex marriage

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — The Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted 5-0 on Tuesday to support civil marriage for same-sex couples.

Board member Jackie Gist proposed a resolution of the board's support of civil marriage for same-sex couples earlier this month in response to California's Proposition 8 and other measures approved by voters in several states prohibiting same-sex marriage.

"The Election Day victories by anti-gay activists in California, Florida, Arizona and Arkansas were a painful reminder that the gay rights movement still faces many challenges," the resolution states. "Civil marriage for same-sex couples must include all the benefits commonly bestowed upon opposite-sex couples, including, among other rights, health care coverage and related decision-making, privileges under immigration and naturalization law, survivor benefits, inheritance rights and child custody."

Board members said they felt it was important to come out in support of gay marriage, despite widespread opposition.

"I've had other people ask me what good does it do for the town of Carrboro to come up with a resolution like this, when really all we can do is squawk?" board member Lydia Lavelle said. "But that's what we do – we squawk."

Mayor Mark Chilton said he'd heard similar questions.

SEE SAME SEX PAGE 7

Few bright spots in local unemployment picture

BY MARGOT C. LESTER
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This story is the second in a series about jobs and the local economy. If the recession has affected you or your business, or if you're working in a green-collar job, please drop a line to margot@carrborocitizen.com. We might tell your story in an upcoming installment.

When the state released October's unemployment figures just before Thanksgiving, there was little to give thanks for (see chart). The number of out-of-work North Carolinians inched closer to 7 percent and local figures were essentially unchanged. Unemployment rolls in Orange and Chatham counties decreased a hair, driven primarily by the retail and service sectors hiring temporary workers for the hoped-for holiday crush.

Orange Co. view

With its largest employer being the State of North Carolina, Orange

County has been somewhat insulated from the job losses experienced in neighboring counties.

"We don't have a lot of non-government business here, so it may seem negligible by comparison," says Bradley Broadwell, director of the county's Economic Development Commission. "But whether it's sizable or not doesn't matter – everything's getting hit."

Right now, it's small businesses that are beginning to trim headcounts or close altogether. But with a state budget shortfall of 5 percent and university and local government hiring freezes and furloughs looking imminent, county unemployment rolls are expected to grow.

"We can't continue to rely on the university," Broadwell asserts.

Chatham Co. view

In Chatham, things have been worse.

"To date, the highest unemployment figure was 5.9 percent in July, right after Pilgrim's Pride closed," says Dianne Reid, president of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation.

JOBS WATCH Our monthly look at the latest unemployment data

CHATHAM CO.	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
October 2008	33,131	1,760	5.3%
September 2008	33,008	1,811	5.5%
October 2007	32,764	1,208	3.7%
ORANGE CO.	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
October 2008	67,969	2,763	4.1%
September 2008	67,714	2,869	4.2%
October 2007	67,661	2,070	3.1%
STATEWIDE	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
October 2008	4.5 million	308,496	6.7%
September 2008	4.7 million	300,308	6.6%
October 2007	4.5 million	202,597	4.5%

SOURCE: North Carolina Employment Security Commission

But the looming failure of the Big 3 automakers and the massive drop in housing starts will inevitably have an impact on employment here. Companies like Performance Fibers in Moncure, which makes polyester fiber for seat belts and tire cord, and building products manufacturers like Moncure Plywood and Olympic Steel (Siler City) are likely feeling the pinch.

"Companies in these sectors are try-

ing not to lay people off, pulling hours back, but who knows," she says.

Also unknown at this point: the impact on construction jobs as developers consider scaling back plans. According to the U.S. Commerce Department, construction spending dropped 1.2 percent in October, outpacing the 0.9 percent dip analysts forecast.

SEE JOBS PAGE 3

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MUSIC CALENDAR



BLACK SKIES
Local 506
December 5

PHOTO BY BRANDON WU

THURSDAY DEC 4

Blue Bayou: AC Bushnell and the Happy Joy Band, opening act: Andrew Marlin. 8:30pm

The Cave: EARLY: Brandon Herndon & John Pardue's Songslingers Showcase LATE: Chemical Green

Local 506: Junior Revolution, Clothing & Shoes, Geoff Register (of Sleepsound). 9pm, Free

Nightlight: Le Weekend CD Release Party!!! with Crash/Actual Persons (Living or Dead) and DJ Nasty Boots. 9:30pm

Reservoir: The Travesties, Teh Vodak, The Fad

FRIDAY DEC 5

Blue Bayou: The Fusticks. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Steep Canyon Rangers w/ Shannon Whitworth. 9pm, \$8

The Cave: EARLY: Highway 54 LATE: Jeff Hart Band w/Future Kings of Nowhere

Local 506: Black Skies, Sexy Prime. 10pm, \$5

Nightlight: Black Congo, Twin Tigers, Fertile Crescent, Remora. 10pm, \$6

SATURDAY DEC 6

The ArtsCenter: Rock For Reproductive Rights featuring the Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band and Caitlin Cary

Blue Bayou: David Spencer Band. 9:30 PM

Cat's Cradle: Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band. 9:30pm, \$10

Harry's Market: Pickin' with Jon Durham. 4-8pm

The Cave: EARLY: Stereofidelics. LATE: A Big Daddy Love

Local 506: Radar Brothers, Lud. \$8

Nightlight: FrequeNC Records Night dance party

Open Eye Cafe: The Dreamscapes Project. 8pm



STEEP CANYON RANGERS
Cat's Cradle
December 5

Reservoir: 4 Year Anniversary Transportation, Fin Fang Foom, Caltrop, Monsonia

MONDAY DEC 8

Cat's Cradle: Matt and Kim: The Cool Kids. 9pm, \$5

The Cave: Hooray for Earth w/Illicitizen. 9pm

Local 506: Angela Desveaux & The Mighty Ship, Erie Choir. 9:30pm, Free

TUESDAY DEC 9

Cat's Cradle: ohGr from Skinny Puppy w/American Memory Project. 9pm, \$17/\$20

The Cave: EARLY: Spoken-word w/ Ben & Marty. LATE: Spider Bags w/Terrible Twos. \$5

Local 506: L Phrenic, Mercerboggs, Marko & The Rockers. 8:30pm, Free

WEDNESDAY DEC 10

The Cave: EARLY: Adam Klein, Late Alcazar Hotel, Jokes & Jokes & Instant Jones

Local 509: Matt Stillwell. 8pm, \$10

THURSDAY DEC 11

Blue Bayou: John Saylor. 9pm

The Cave: EARLY: Wax Museum Pandemonium w/The Accordion Death Squad. LATE: Inspector 22 with Impossible Arms

Local 506: Battle of the Colleges

SPOTLIGHT



CAITLIN CARY

ROCK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The fifth annual Rock for Reproductive Rights concert, featuring Caitlin Cary and the Savoy Doucet Cajun Band, is Saturday from 8 to 11 p.m. at The ArtsCenter.

Cary, veteran of alt country favorite Whiskeytown and founding member of Tres Chicas, will kick off the evening with a mix of rock, country and folk music. The legendary Savoy Doucet Cajun Band will follow with a contemporary take on traditional Cajun music.

Tickets are \$16 and \$14 for ArtsCenter members. Proceeds benefit Ipas, an organization that works around the world to increase women's reproductive rights



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CAT'S CRADLE

SA 12/6
YO MAMA'S BIG FAT BOOTY BAND

WE 12/10
MATT STILLWELL
LOCAL 506

FR 12/5 STEEP CANYON RANGERS(\$10/\$12)**
W/SHANNON WHITWORTH

SA 12/6 YO MAMA'S BIG FAT BOOTY BAND
W/ENDLESS MIC**(\$10)

MO 12/8 GREEN LABEL SOUND & WKNC 88.1 PRESENTS
MATT AND KIM: THE COOL KIDS, JUAN HUEVOS(\$5)**

TU 12/9 OHGR(\$17/\$20)**
FROM SKINNY PUPPY
W/AMERICAN MEMORY PROJECT

FR 12/12 BLUE BAYOU PRESENTS
TAB BENOIT
W/MEL MELTON
AND THE WICKED MOJOS**(\$18/\$20)

SA 12/13 NC FOOD BANK BENEFIT
SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS(\$12/\$14)**
\$1 OFF COVER WITH A CAN OF FOOD!
W/THE HALL MONITORS

SU 12/14 GORILLA SHOWCASE
BATTLE OF THE BANDS FINAL!

MO 12/15 TREKKY RECORDS PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS AT THE CRADLE!
TREKKY YULETIDE ORCHESTRA AND MORE

FR 12/19 ECHHS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

SA 12/20 CHRISTMAS GATHERING
DEXTER AND THE NEW ROMANS, BIG FAT GAP, THE RAFTERS FREE SHOW!

SA 12/27 WINTER REGGAE JAM
DUB ADDIS, CRUCIAL FIYAH, JUNIOR P, CAYENNE THE LION KING(\$8/\$10)**

SU 12/28 BENEFIT CONCERT
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WE 12/31 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
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SU 1/11/09 FLICKER
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TH 1/15/09 VIRGINIA COALITION
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TH 2/5/09
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SA 12/13
SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS
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R 1/16/09 LOS CAMPESINOS
W/TITUS ANDRONICUS**(\$12/\$14)

SA 1/17/09 WHO'S BAD?**
(MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE)

FR 1/23/09 THE GOURDS
W/RAMSAY MILWOOD **(\$10/\$12)

FR 1/30/09 \$10/\$12**
THE LAST WALTZ ENSEMBLE

SA 1/31/09 ANNUALS
W/JESSICA LEA MAYFIELD & WHAT LAURA SAYS**(\$10/\$12)

TH 2/5/09(\$15)**
BRETT DENNEN
W/ANGEL TAYLOR

SU 2/8/09 MONTE MONTGOMERY**

SA 2/14/09 THE OLD CEREMONY**

TU 3/24/09 CUT COPY
W/MATT & KIM**(\$16/\$18)

FR 12/12
TAB BENOIT

ALSO PRESENTING

LOCAL 506 (CH)

SA 12/6 RADAR BROS.
W/LIZ DURRETT AND LUD

WE 12/10 MATT STILLWELL

TU 12/16 DUB TRIO, AMERICAN BANG

TH 1/15/09 GOD'S POTTERY

WE 1/21/09 VIC CHESNUTT
W/ELF POWER

THE ARTSCENTER (CAR)

WE 3/11/09 KATHLEEN EDWARDS

News Briefs

Atwater pleads not guilty

Demario James Atwater pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to federal carjacking and firearms charges in the slaying of UNC Student Body President Eve Carson.

Atwater, 22, is one of two suspects charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of Carson.

Federal authorities could choose to seek the death penalty under the charges of carjacking resulting in death and using a firearm during a carjacking resulting in death, and have until March 31 to decide.

Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall announced in August that the state would seek the death penalty against Atwater. The state can't seek the death penalty against suspect Laurence Alvin Lovette because he was 17 at the time of the murder.

Rabid cow

A cow from a Hillsborough cattle farm tested positive for rabies Nov. 17 at the State Laboratory of Public Health.

The 45-day-old calf was submitted after it mysteriously died. The case was referred to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which will work with the farm to ensure that precautions are taken with regard to other cattle on the farm.

So far this year, Orange County Animal Services has received 121 positive rabies tests. If any possible exposure to a bat, raccoon or fox is suspected, call Animal Control at 245-2075 or call 911.

Foushee elected county chair

The Orange County Board of Commissioners elected Valerie Foushee as chair of the board for 2009 on Monday.

Foushee has served on the board since 2004 and served as vice chair for 2008. The board elected Mike Nelson as vice chair for 2009.

In addition, the board recognized retiring Commissioner Moses Carey, who served on the board for 24 years. New board members Pam Hemminger, Bernadette Pelissier and Steve Yushasz were sworn in.

School board meeting tonight

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education meets tonight (Thursday) at 7 at the Chapel Hill Town Hall. Items on the agenda include: Advanced Placement courses for Carrboro High School students, animals in schools, access to high school thematic academies, state reversion of funds and new course proposals.

Human Rights Week to honor declaration's 60th

The Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities will celebrate human rights throughout the week to honor the 60-year anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was presented to the United Nations on Dec. 9, 1948 and signed by member nations the next day.

The weekend kicks off with a day-long series of presentations and performances at the Carrboro Century Center on Friday. From 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. speakers from area nonprofits will address the role of their organizations in promoting and protecting human rights. From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. a

jazz duo performs, followed by a performance by Hidden Voices from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. From 4 to 6 the topic is racial justice, and from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the topic will be migrants voices.

In addition, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Homestead Community Center, many speakers and advocates from the area will discuss labor rights.

On Saturday, Scene and Heard Interactive Theater performs from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Hargraves Community Center.

On Sunday, events and lectures continue. From 3 to 5 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Friends

Meeting House, "The Richness of Religious Diversity: A Human Rights Perspective," features panelists offering diverse views.

Also on Sunday, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. is "Environmental Justice: The Rogers Road Struggle" at the Chapel Hill Public Library.

And from 7 to 9 p.m., see "Local Food, Sustainability, and Human Rights" at the Homestead Community Center, with panelists who will discuss these important and topical subjects.

For a full schedule or more information, see online at humanrightscities.org

JOBS

FROM PAGE 1

A broader view

Also suffering: the bread and butter of the RTP. Lenovo and IBM have begun laying off workers (about 150 between them so far).

"Nationally, technology has recorded the highest number of cuts since 2005," says a report from Chicago outplacement firm Challenger Gray & Christmas.

As of October, tech companies had cut 51,500 jobs nationally. Pharmaceuticals fared only slightly better, shedding 36,536 positions in the same period. Pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline, which slashed its sales and R&D head count this year, is expected to cut more jobs when it consolidates its headquarters operations to RTP.

Elsewhere in the region, the global financial crisis is prompting North Carolina-based and other banks to cut positions in branches and operation centers.

"That's where the storm came ashore - finance, housing construction, banking," says jobs expert and Challenger CEO John Challenger.

And there's the retail sector, which hired the fewest number of seasonal workers since 1991. Although preliminary Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales figures were slightly better than expected, Challenger expects non-seasonal workers to begin to get pink slips in early 2009 unless holiday sales are unexpectedly brisk.

"Every month this year, we've seen negative job creation," Challenger says. "Now it's totaling 1.2 million jobs lost - and over half of those were in the last three months. So it appears to be accelerating."

A positive view

But lest you think it's all death, destruction and pestilence, there are some bright spots on the local employment scene.

"I don't want to use the word 'good,' but times like these have proved to be the stimulus that has created viable businesses," Broadwell says. So he wouldn't be surprised to see new businesses rising from the ashes and creating jobs. "Venture and angel capital is still out there. It's hard to come by. But if you're smart with a good idea and business model, there's not a bad time to start."

What else can the government do?

With the *federales* quick to bail out the banks - and maybe the Big 3 - it's only natural to wonder if the fine folks in Washington will bail out the jobless. Don't hold your breath. Short of extending unemployment benefits (which they've already done), legislators can't do much to ease the direct pain of being unemployed.

But they can do something. President-elect Barack Obama proposed last week to invest \$150 billion in technology development and job creation over the next decade. And there are more immediate things the government can do to increase demand

Reid also expects that green-collar jobs at "innovative companies that have new products or approaches" will spur employment growth. Examples include Piedmont Biofuels in Pittsboro, a producer and seller of biodiesel and biofuel consultancy, or Siler City's Floorazzo, which developed a sustainable terrazzo tile at less cost than the traditional kind. (*The Citizen* will explore this sector in an upcoming installment.)

On the horizon

If historical economic trends are right, this year's sustained job loss could be the dark before the dawn.

"Unemployment is a 'lagging indicator,' in that once unemployment is at its peak the economy is usually well into recovery," explains Ed van Wesep, assistant

professor of finance at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. "We should expect unemployment to get much higher during this downturn, but realize that this lags the business cycle. When things look their worst - at least according to unemployment figures - the economy may actually be improving."

But whether we're at that critical point or not remains to be seen. And most people are just plain nervous.

"How long will it last? If I could answer this with clarity I'd be on the transition team," Reid laughs. "There's not a willingness to concede that we have turned the corner. It doesn't seem like confidence is being restored with any of the proposed solutions. And with the economy, confidence is so incredibly important."

and, once it does, it's too late."

A faster solution, he says, is to provide cash directly to those who will spend it, like state governments and less-wealthy individuals. That could come in the form of tax cuts and rebates.

Though the Obama-Biden campaign promised middle-class tax cuts and the quick repeal of President George W. Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy, no firm plans for putting cash in the hands of those who need it most have been announced. Stay tuned.

— Margot C. Lester

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Full color Map Brochure available at local restaurants, shops & businesses and:

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- Durham Arts Council
- Aria Spa at Chatham Crossing, Chapel Hill
- The ArtsCenter, Carrboro
- The General Store Café, Pittsboro

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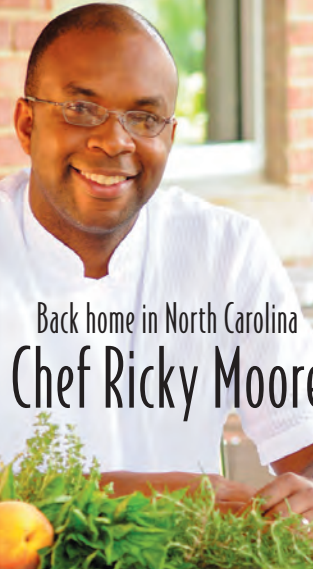
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FOR THE RECORD

Self-evident

Jimmy Carter has often remarked that "America did not invent human rights, human rights invented America."

That shouldn't be all that difficult to remember, but sometimes amid all the bunting and flag-waving we forget just what drove this country's imperfect collection of founders to attempt to form that more perfect union.

At their core, human rights are truths. Truths that are succinct, beautiful and, in too many places and for too many people, illusive.

This week, North Carolinians are celebrating two milestones in the development of human rights — the anniversary of North Carolina's ratification of the Bill of Rights and the adoption 60 years ago of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We trust you've had an opportunity to familiarize yourself with the Bill of Rights. Not so familiar to most people is the Universal Declaration, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948.

Drafted by Canadian John Peters Humphrey and a host of representatives of other lands, as well as Eleanor Roosevelt, the 30 articles contained in the document have that loud ring powerful truths tend to project:

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. (Article 6)

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. (Article 9)

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. (Article 20)

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. (Article 21)

Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. (Article 27)

Reading through the declaration, it is hard not to reflect on how un-universally these rights are distributed throughout the planet and how much backsliding there's been even here in the shining city on a hill.

This week, there are dozens of commemorations, speeches and performances to remind us of the declaration's milestone and our obligations toward one another to preserve and protect these rights (see schedule on page 3). Among the events is a special performance by Scene and Heard Interactive Theater at the Hargraves Center on Saturday. This youth performance looks like a great way to introduce young people to the importance of the rights we hold so dear.

As the past few years have taught us, the perpetuity of these rights is not a given. Each generation must rise to the challenge. Part of that means making sure succeeding generations are willing and ready.

KUDOS

Thanks, Peggy

Next Tuesday in Carrboro is Peggy Misch Day. It is not the only official nod to the work of one of this community's tireless leaders in the cause of human rights and individual liberties. Next week at an event in Raleigh, she'll receive the Human Rights Coalition of North Carolina's 2008 International Human Rights Award.

Margaret "Peggy" Misch seems to be constantly on the move and, whether it is organizing another event with the Orange County Bill of Rights Defense Committee or having her say before a government board, her passion for our rights comes through.

An important step

Kudos to Piedmont Health Services and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce for collaborating on a way to make health care more affordable and accessible for self-employed people and employees of local small businesses.

The health center is signing up 50 individuals for a pilot program that lowers costs for doctor visits and prescriptions.

Here's to their success with the hope that it will lead to more programs like it here and elsewhere.



Turning the tide for black students

NEIL PEDERSEN

In the course of three months, Chapel Hill High School has lost two African-American male students, Atlas Fraley and Rodney Torain Jr. These were two young men who had defied the odds for African-American males, who were successful students at Chapel Hill High School and who were preparing themselves to be student-athletes at major universities. They had supportive immediate and extended families who helped them to stay focused and to develop values and character that would have served them well in their adult years.

African-American males are an endangered population in the United States. Fewer than half graduate from our nation's high schools. Young African-American males are as likely to be imprisoned as to be found on a college campus. According to [education consultant] Michael Wynn, only three out of every 100 African-American males graduate from a four-year college. This is a national tragedy that threatens millions of lives and the prosperity of this country.

Last week, Glenn Singleton, a consultant on issues surrounding race who has worked with our district since 2001, led sessions with our principals and our equity teams that focused on African-American male youth. As a whole, these are the students who struggle most in our schools. They are more likely than any other group of students to receive failing grades, be suspended or be labeled as an exceptional-education student. Unfortunately, they often find themselves struggling to adapt to school settings with a predominantly white culture. Mr. Singleton contends that if we can do what it takes for African-American males to be successful in school, we will be successful with all populations of students. I think that he is right.

Principals, teachers and our school-based equity teams are faced with the challenge to create a culture in our schools and classrooms in which all students perceive that their individuality, their heritage, their community's values and their youth culture are respected. Students need to believe that they are a welcome sight when they walk through the classroom door, that they are respected, that their teachers believe in their abilities and potential and that they care about them as people. Too often, African-American males don't perceive that this is the case. If we fail to embrace and educate them, it is predictable that they will act out or drop out in search of the affirmation and support that they don't find in school.

Settling for too little anti-smoking efforts

CHRIS FITZSIMON

This week marks the 10th anniversary of the settlement between 46 states and the tobacco industry. The states, including North Carolina, agreed to drop their lawsuits against major tobacco companies and the companies agreed to give the states \$200 billion over 25 years to offset tobacco-related health care costs.

The companies also agreed to new restrictions on advertising and marketing and most states pledged to use the settlement money to pay for anti-smoking programs and health care expenses. North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley was attorney general then and included a provision to use some of the money to help offset the economic losses in the state due to the decline of the tobacco industry.

In 1999, the General Assembly set up three foundations to receive and spend the settlement proceeds: the Golden Leaf Foundation, the Health and Wellness Trust Fund and the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. Golden Leaf gets half the money and the other two foundations split the other half. Only the Health and Wellness Trust Fund explicitly funds anti-smoking initiatives along with other health-education programs.

A national report by a coalition of public health groups ranks North Carolina 32nd in funding

Earlier in November, the state finally released our district's reading scores for grades 3-8 for the 2007-08 school year. The reading tests had been made much more rigorous and the standard for proficiency raised. African-American reading scores declined from an 81 percent proficiency rate in 2006-07 to a rate of 39 percent last year. The rate for African-American males was 35.6 percent.

With the raising of standards, we've been given a new challenge, and we must meet it head on. Our strategies are in place: a balanced literacy program supported by literacy coaches in every elementary school; prevention and intervention strategies and support systems for struggling students; the use of research-based, high-yield and culturally relevant instructional practices; professional learning communities in which teachers collaborate to support and inform each other; the effective use of technology; positive behavior support systems; collaboration with the community; and professional development on equity and race. This is a lot to expect for our teachers to master and implement, but I believe we have a very talented and committed teaching force that is up to the challenge.

Glenn Singleton defined for us a new achievement gap: the gap between the performance of the next president of the United States and that of young African-American males. Barack Obama should be an inspiration not only for African-American youth but also for educators. He reminds us of the potential in each of our students, a potential that is often masked and even doubted by the students themselves.

As I sat in the Bible Church during Atlas' and Rodney's funerals, I reflected on their childhood photos. They were bright-eyed, beautiful children with engaging smiles who had matured into young men. One can easily imagine the hopes and dreams that their families had for them. I urge us to draw inspiration from their all-too-short lives.

While Atlas and Rodney are no longer with us, educators, parents and the community must renew their commitment to improving the future for African-American males in our classrooms today by setting high standards and then supporting them in the development of their learning, skills, fitness and character, such that each and every one of them graduates from high school well prepared for the challenges that lie ahead of them. To quote President-elect Obama, "Yes, we can. Yes, we will."

Local governments who want to protect the public health of their citizens can't. State law prohibits cities and counties from passing any anti-smoking ordinances stricter than the weak statewide standard. Smoking rates may now be lower in the state, but the influence of the tobacco industry doesn't seem to be declining very much.

The Center for Media and Democracy says the settlement was flawed from the beginning and that it was unrealistic to think states wouldn't use the settlement proceeds to fund programs that have nothing to do with public health. The center also points out that tobacco companies have increased the price of a pack of cigarettes by \$1.10 since the settlement was signed, ensuring that their profits didn't suffer from the agreement.

The marketing efforts and sponsorships guarantee that, too. The profits of the tobacco industry depend on people continuing to increase their risk of cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.

The 10th anniversary of the agreement is a good time for state officials to take another look at how the state is spending the annual proceeds from it. It is also a good time to finally listen to Rep. Holliman and protect people from the deadly effects of secondhand smoke.

We have been settling for less in public health for too long.

LETTERS

Book Local

We've heard the term Buy Local, but what about Book Local?

In the best of times, the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Center dedicates itself to bringing outsiders in, encouraging the kind of tourism that benefits all of us in myriad ways, from keeping our businesses alive to feathering our tax base. But these aren't the best of times, and so we find ourselves going at our job from the other side of the curtain: encouraging the insiders not to go out.

When we locals take our educational events, our government meetings, our weddings or bar mitzvahs outside of Orange County we're essentially robbing ourselves. It hurts the local economy in the same way it does when we don't buy local: our taxes end up in another municipality and our standard of living is directly affected. Many of our grocery stores sell produce grown by local farmers, and we all understand how we benefit by purchasing it: it's fresher, usually organic, hauled in from five miles away instead of five hundred, which means less gas consumed, less pollution - and we're supporting our own.

Bringing this same perspective to the other businesses that are owned and operated in Orange County. Have your Stay-cation here. Orange County has something for everybody, after all, and in these harsh economic times everybody needs everybody. From the doorman at the Siena Hotel to the service staff at Carolina Inn to every clerk and cook on Weaver and Main Streets, we're as interdependent as the threads on a spider's web. We're a team, no different, in essence, than the way the Tar Heels are a team. Can you imagine cheering for anybody else? When we bring that same support and enthusiasm to those who live and work in Orange County, we all win.

For helpful hints, call the Visitors Bureau at 919-968-2060 and ask for help in coordinating your next event.

Laurie Paolicelli
Executive Director
Chapel Hill/Orange County
Visitors Bureau

Thanks for support

We would like to thank University Mall management and its participating stores for the "It's All About Giving" event held on Saturday, Nov 15. This event helped local non-profits to increase awareness about their organizations and to raise money to support their endeavors. Chapel Hill/Carrboro Meals on Wheels was excited to be a part of this community day of giving. We serve approximately 70 meals each day to people, regardless of age or income, who are unable to prepare a meal themselves. We not only serve meals, but provide a friendly, personal visit each day.

During these difficult economic times, our group has seen a decline in donations and participation, as have so many non-profit organizations. We are grateful to University Mall for the opportunity to spread the word about our local group and hope that this will be a reminder to everyone of all the great work that is being done for our community each and every day by groups like ours. Your continued support is appreciated.

Thank you again to the management of University Mall for their ongoing commitment to our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chapel Hill/Carrboro Meals on
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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.

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Published Thursdays by Carrboro Citizen, LLC.

BETTER WAY
FROM PAGE 1

"We have had terrible leadership [on mental health issues]," Chapel Hill psychiatrist Clay Whitehead says, "enormously damaging and destructive, short-sighted leadership in this state under the Easley administration."

"He's done enormous damage and the next couple of decades are going to be seriously affected by it."

In her campaign position statement on mental health care, Governor-elect Beverley Perdue promised to "adopt a disciplined approach with lots of two-way learning between government officials and the mental health community."

David Cornwell, executive director of the advocacy group North Carolina Mental Hope, is skeptical. He observes that at Perdue's transition team meeting on mental health last week, "it's my understanding that few, if any, [of those invited] were individuals with an illness."

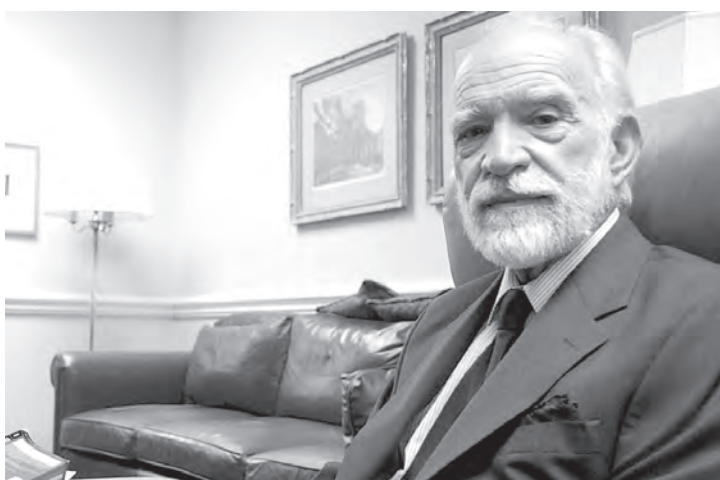
That, says Stratas, is "very distressing." He believes consumers should comprise roughly half of any such advisory team.

For the time being, though, Stratas is maintaining an open-minded approach to the incoming administration.

Meanwhile, he has clear ideas on what needs to happen, proposing, first of all, a statewide patient and provider inventory to identify and classify the population in need of mental health care and pinpoint available treatment.

"We have to scan the whole state, county by county, patient by patient," says Stratas. "We've got to see what's out there so that we can move forward with some intelligence."

"We don't know right now what's working and what's not."



Dr. Nicholas Stratas

PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

So the first thing is mapping the system."

Stratas proposes developing computer-based models that each Local Management Entity (LME), formed to oversee the private providers, could use to determine its community's specific needs.

"What's needed in Vance County isn't necessarily what's needed in Wake County," says Stratas.

Also imperative, according to Stratas, is that each LME be directed by a board-certified psychiatrist. Services provided by LMEs should include a 24-hour crisis intervention program, outpatient psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy, both day and night inpatient programs and community-support services. LMEs should consult with and educate other agencies, including law enforcement, social services, public health, public instruction and the courts.

Stratas sees the money budgeted in 2008-09 for mental health care — money that's already been cut and is likely to be cut again — as being far too little.

But, he adds, "I must tell you that, until we're clear about what we have and what we need, it may be more money down the drain."

and physical health care services through Community Care of North Carolina, which operates out of the North Carolina Office of Rural Health and Community Care. It's an effort championed by Governor-elect Perdue.

Recruiting talent

Given current conditions, it's hard to imagine a committed mental health professional wanting to establish a career in North Carolina. But advocates say that the ability to attract talent to effect the changes that need to take place within our communities is at least as critical as any other concern.

Thomas Smith has been practicing psychiatry and advocating for those with mental illnesses in this state for over five decades. He's written and circulated a "Rescue Plan for Mental Health" in which he writes that we must "institute a vigorous outreach and recruitment program."

Smith has been enlisted in recent years to recruit talent and, he says, "It's like pulling alligator's teeth. To come into an atmosphere like this, where everything is in a state of disruption — who would want to come and join this force?"

Still, he writes, we "absolutely must initiate a full-court press when it comes to finding, training, fielding and retaining psychiatrists and other mental health workers. Otherwise we could end up quite destitute in this respect."

From within

But the message that most clearly emanates from advocates with mental illness — those who suffer when services aren't available — and those who work most closely among them is that change must first come from within — from within our communities and ourselves.

North Carolina Mental Hope's David Cornwell says that among

elect officials and the public "there's simply going to have to be a parity of concern for mental illnesses on par with that of other physical illnesses and other societal issues."

"[W]ere it not for the crushing stigma of mental illness, maybe our cause could have a Michael Fox, a Lance Armstrong, a Jerry's Kids telethon."

In an open letter to outgoing-Governor Easley, Nicholas Stratas wrote: "Your administration has for eight years failed to appreciate that, as we treat those unable to help themselves, so we treat ourselves."

That treatment, says Smith, involves challenging those with mental illness to navigate through a fragmented, labyrinthian system, and to do so while, quite often, "suffering the tortures of the damned."

"We really need to recognize the errors of our present system," says Clay Whitehead. "Then we have to tap the public sentiment and the values of our communities, and we have to explore where we have leadership, and followership, and in what direction that takes us."

"Do we want to throw these people into the streets and prisons?... Because that's what we're talking about. And if we don't want to do that, then we have to take care of people."

"There's no relativity theory involved in that. If we want to take care of people, we basically know how to do it. And if we don't, what are we going to do with them, and where are they going to go?"

Next in the series: Efforts to improve mental health care in Orange County, including the recent formation of a Chapel Hill Mental Health Task Force, a joint town/university effort to discuss, examine and assess mental health care services in Chapel Hill.

SAME SEX
FROM PAGE 1

"It was just a couple of college towns when we started in on the civil rights movement in the late '50s and early '60s, and it was just a couple of college towns when we started the process of ending the war in Vietnam," he said.

Board member Randeel Haven-O'Donnell agreed.

"I think it's really important for the municipalities to weigh in when they know they stand for civil marriage," she said. "I think it's really important for Carrboro to stand firm."

In other business, the board heard from Trip Overholt, developer of the Veridia Redevelopment, regarding his request for his project to be waived from affordable-housing requirements. The town requires that new developments consist of 15 percent affordable housing, which Overholt said is cost prohibitive.

The development would be located at 810 Old Fayetteville Road, the site of the 39-unit Pine Grove trailer park. According to Overholt, Veridia would be a LEED-certified development, with green features such as solar power and cisterns.

In addition, the project would include 39 1,350-square-foot homes priced at \$289,000, considerably below the average price of new homes in Carrboro, according to Overholt.

Board members said they would waive the affordable-housing requirements given the lower projected prices of the homes and their green features.

Gist said that if the affordable-housing requirement is to be lifted, she would like to find a way to ensure that the houses are sold for around \$289,000, noting that the trailer park the development would replace is affordable housing.

OBITUARY

Helen McLeran



Helen McLeran passed away on Nov. 11 after a brave battle with lung disease at Carolina Meadows, where she resided for 20 years. She was born in Caldwell, N.J., Feb. 26, 1914 and was the daughter of Anna Bergman and Willard Jessie Terry of Doswell, Va.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Allan McLane McLeran of Katonah, N.Y., where they lived for 55 years, and Floyd D. Frost, III of Durham. Helen is survived by a son, John E. McLeran, and wife Penny of West Redding, Conn., and Nancy M. Fore, and Husband Thomas

of Pittsboro, N.C. She is survived by four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Helen was a volunteer of the American Red Cross for many years. She was a member of the Women's Auxiliary of St. Matthews Episcopal Church of Bedford, N.Y., and handmade many of the beautiful altar linens. Helen was a concert pianist in her early years in Virginia. She was an avid flower gardener and won a number of awards for her exquisite flower arrangements. Those who knew her marveled at her endless generosity, kindness and ever-cheerful spirit.

A memorial service is planned for Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. in the chapel at Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church in Chapel Hill.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Red Cross in her name.

Helena Johanna Sidor

Helena Johanna Sidor, 98, a former resident of

Grand Rapids, Mich., died on Nov. 22, 2008 at her son's home in Chapel Hill, N.C. after leading a long and very busy life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael John Sidor, her parents John and Lucy Czajkowski, her sisters, Esther Misius, and Frances Saye, and her brothers, Bernard, Arthur, Edward, and Marion.

She is survived by her loving son, David (Janice) of Chapel Hill, N.C.; two grandsons, David Todd Sidor (Lori) of Cranbury, N.J., and Christopher Michael Sidor (Linda) of Carrboro, N.C.; her sisters, Isabelle Gabert of Grand Rapids and Margaret (Julian) Palazotto of Spring Hill, Fla.; a nephew Robert Misius; a niece and goddaughter, Barbara (Dick) Van Dyke; and a niece and nephew, Evelyn Jackolow of Rochester Hills, Mich., and Richard Jackolow, of Shelby Township, Mich.

She was a life long communicant of Holy Spirit Church in Grand Rapids and a member of its Altar Society. A gardener and flower arranger, she was

an active member of a local garden club for many years. One of her greatest joys was working in her beautiful flower garden! In later years, she loved being a member of the "Garden Angels" at church and often pointed out the beautiful plantings in the front of the church which came from her beloved garden at home.

During her last years with her son in North Carolina, she smiled much more as she was no longer alone. She made many new friends at Saint Thomas More Church. At that time she became a UNC fan, attending women's basketball and soccer games and even Durham Bulls baseball games. The team mascots were her favorite "players" and always brought a smile to her face.

A funeral mass will be offered in Grand Rapids on Dec. 9th at 10 a.m., followed by a reception and interment.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.walkersfuneralservice.com

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IN SEASON



POTTERY UNDER
FULL MOON
BY KELLY AND
JESSICA

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

I think the irregular shape of mature specimens of this tree is also appealing. Several fine specimens are in the Botanical Garden's herb garden in front of the Totten Center. Those trees were there in the woods before the herb garden was created. Today they stand as Tolkien-like sentinels of a former time.

Both the tree and the shrub species of these hollies are ideal for home gardens. Now is a good time to plant them, and they're beginning to show up in some of our local nurseries. If your favorite nursery or garden center doesn't offer them, ask for them.

I know the Botanical Garden still has a few, and Southern States in Carrboro has a nice selection of cultivars of both the tree and shrub species. Cure Nursery, www.curenursery.com, just south in Chatham County, is growing the trees from locally collected seed and Niche Gardens has cultivars of the shrub.

Make certain you get a male to accompany



Cedar waxwing beginning a feast of holly berries.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

your females. If you live adjacent to woods, you may have males of the tree form nearby; but unless you live near an open wet area, you most likely will not have a male winterberry nearby, so a male is certainly a must. I have a big lady winterberry that flowers heavily ev-

ery spring, but with no male friend nearby she never displays berries. I'm procuring a companion for her this winter!

In the meantime, every day I look out the window or walk out in the yard, I have another one of those "died and gone to Heaven" experiences, enjoying the five

female deciduous hollies out in the side yard. I have a couple of males lurking along the edge. This small tree has a six-month winter season appeal with another six months of appealing anticipation during the growing season.

Land & Table Briefs

TCBY donates

TCBY at Eastgate Shopping Center will donate 10 percent of sales on Tuesday to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Public School Foundation.

The frozen yogurt shop donates 10 percent of sales to the PSF the second Tuesday of every month. Elmo's Restaurant donates 10 percent of sales of the first Tuesday of each month to the PSF.

In addition, Chapel Hill Taxi donates 50 cents from each ride to the foundation's Achievers' Fund to assist students who need academic or enrichment support.

Crafts at the market

The Carrboro Farmers' Market will host a craft display at the market on Saturday.

The display will feature the crafts of the market's vendors, in time for the holiday season.

In addition, the market will hold a drawing for various market items in honor of Customer Appreciation Month.

The Eater is still asleep on the couch after Thanksgiving. The column will return next week. Once The Eater awakes, he can be reached at eats@carrborocitizen.com

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To learn more, call Kathy in the Admissions Office at 919.383.6602 ext 221. Or visit www.cfsnc.org

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PAWS WITH CLAUS. Pet Day with Santa! Sunday, December 14. 1-5 p.m. Bring your properly restrained pets for your photo opportunity.

SANTA AND RAMESES. December 15. 3-7 p.m. Of course, Santa is a Tar Heel! Come have your pictures taken with Santa and Ramses, the official UNC mascot. Santa will be donning his Carolina Blue suit just for this special photo opportunity!

"AN EVENING WITH" Music and Cultural Arts Series. Ends December 20. 5-7 p.m.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON. Hear local musical groups of all types perform your holiday favorites at the stage near A Southern Season. See Customer Service for details.

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Hoops Season



(at left) Carrboro High School senior Cardin Jones heads to the hoop against East Chapel Hill High School. The Wildcats defeated the Jaguars 68-53.

(below) Carrboro High sophomore guard Layne Mishoe drives while senior forward Melody Cranfill sets a pick during the recent game between Carrboro High and East Chapel Hill. East's Wildcats topped the Jaguars 54-35. On Friday, Chapel Hill High and East Chapel Hill square off at 7:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill High School.

PHOTOS BY TED SPAULDING



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MARK TRAIL

SOARING GRACEFULLY ON 7-FOOT WINGS, THE FRIGATE OR MAN-O-WAR BIRD IS UNEQUALLED IN FLIGHT - IT IS ALMOST AS WELL-ADAPTED TO AN AERIAL WAY OF LIFE AS THE SWIFTS.

THIS PIRATE OF THE SEA OFTEN GETS ITS MEAL BY FORCING OTHER SEA BIRDS TO DROP THEIR DINNER, WHICH IT THEN SWOOPS UP BEFORE IT HITS THE WATER.

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE FRIGATE BIRD HAS WEBBED FEET, IT IS ALMOST HELPLESS IN THE WATER.

FOR ITS FEATHERS QUICKLY BECOME WATERLOGGED AND IT CAN BARELY TAKE OFF AGAIN...

ON LAND IT IS JUST AS INEPT, FOR ITS LEGS ARE TOO WEAK FOR WALKING, SCARCELY PERMITTING IT TO HOBBLE ALONG.

BUT IN THE AIR THE BIG SEA BIRD, WITH GRACE AND ABILITY, USES THE AIR CURRENTS TO SOAR FOR HOURS IN SEARCH OF A MEAL.

WITH ITS LONG, HOOKED BEAK IT DEEPLY CATCHES A MEAL AS IT IS DRIVEN TO THE SURFACE BY PREDATORS.

WITHOUT SO MUCH AS WETTING ITS FEATHERS AND IT PLUCKS FROM THE WATER FLOATING TADPOLES SUCH AS JELLYFISH AND SQUID...

Jesse Bleck

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8	4	7	3	1	5	6	9	2
3	6	2	7	4	9	8	1	5
9	2	4	1	5	8	7	3	6
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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:
A three-year-old child is being tortured by a six-dollar bill.

Uncle Walt's last day, 1967

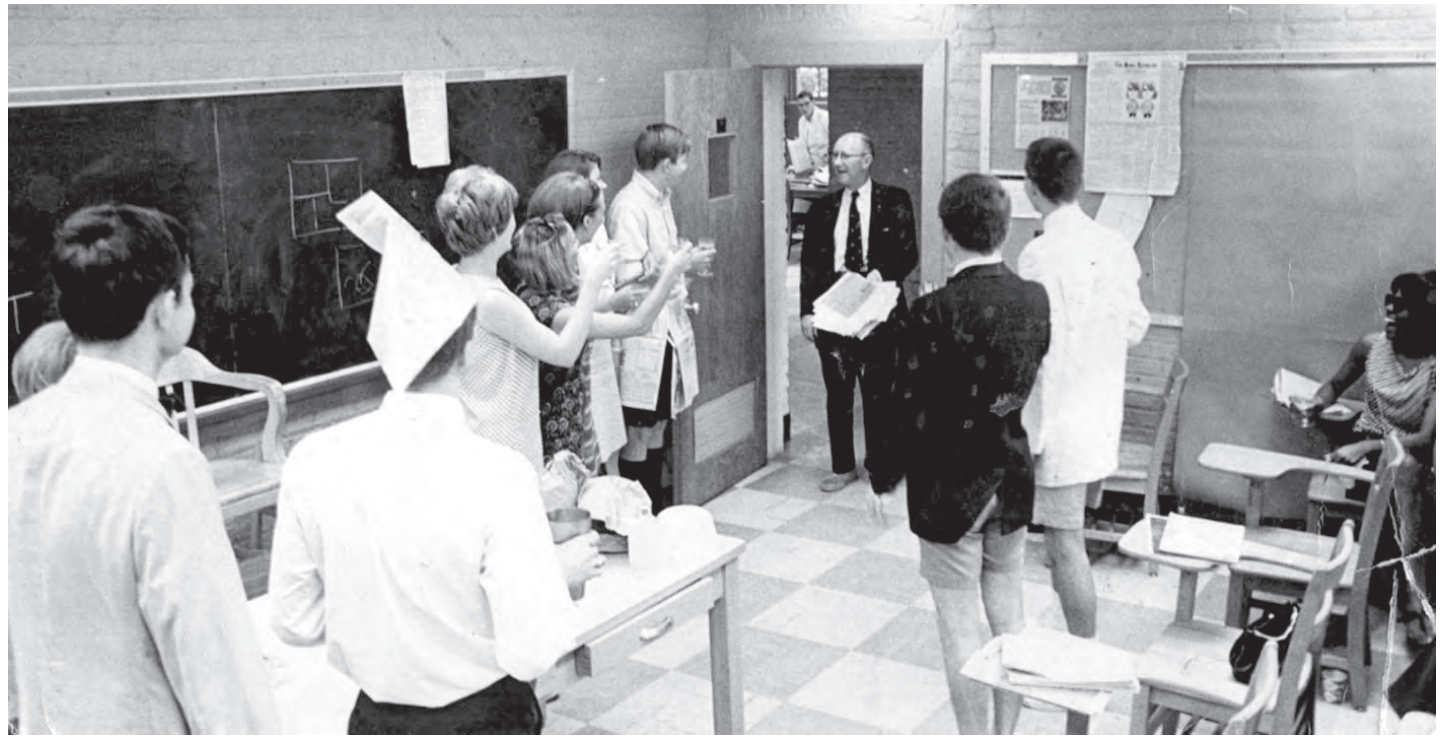
Now let us praise famous teachers, who changed our lives, and whose voices we can hear even now.

Walt Spearman, "Uncle Walt" to his devoted following, was one of my Other Dads and guiding lights. Students adored the folksy, feet-on-the-desk, smoking, wise-cracking old professor whose door was always open, his sly grin firmly in place.

On the last day of editorial writing class, spring semester 1967, in old Howell Hall, we honored him with a cocktail party (yup, and we got away with it, too). I see *Daily Tar Heel* editor Bill Amlong and business manager Tom Clark raising their martini glasses and Spearman, carrying a sheaf of our graded edits, standing surprised in the door. That's Sandy Treadwell, another DTH'er, in the other room, looking on.

Uncle Walt's Rules for Editorial Writing are as good now as they were in the '60s:

1. Focus on issues, not personalities.
2. Never write mad.
3. Avoid sarcasm.
4. Write like you're using a rapier, not a sledgehammer.



A THOUSAND WORDS BY JOCK LAUTERER

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