



FRIDAY  
Clear  
47/29



SATURDAY  
Partly Cloudy  
49/27



SUNDAY  
Clear  
52/31

# C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Sweetgum balls are dropping everywhere.

## FLORA BY KEN MOORE

### Lessons from sweetgum balls

Like any kid, I'm fascinated with sweetgum balls; it's good to stay in touch with your inner kid. This is the time of year when most of those dangling seed pods drop from mature sweetgums, *Liquidambar styraciflua*. You often see kids stooped over observing and touching those curious spiky gum balls wherever they discover them on forest paths and town walkways. Just imagine the wonder of those moments.

Looking closely, I see in each gum ball a nest of baby birds with mouths wide open, waiting for food. In fact, the tiny winged seeds of sweetgum provide food for goldfinches, chickadees, quail and numerous other birds.

Freshly fallen gum balls are beautiful; some even seem polished, in colors varying from copper to burgundy. Each ball, a perfect work of art, would make any handcrafting artist proud.

Walking along Poplar Avenue recently, I noticed a layer of freshly dropped gum balls covering the ground. There were several large sweetgums growing along Tom's Creek, and they were nestled in a beautiful mulch of gum balls. I remember an article in *The Garden*, the official publication of England's Royal Horticultural Society. The writer was praising sweetgum balls as mulch beneath trees and shrubs. The English are ever so practical and resourceful, so mulching with sweetgum balls seems appropriate, if not normal.

In sharp contrast is the chorus of condemnations that those awful sweetgum trees are a menace, with their dropping-gum-balls habit. Folks hate them; or at most, tolerate them. Few folks really value them.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

## Community mourns the loss of Tom Robinson

BY KIRK ROSS  
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — For four decades, Tom Robinson sold seafood, much of that time out of a little white concrete block shop in downtown Carrboro. While he's sure to be remembered for that, mostly he'll be remembered for being Tom Robinson — a sharp-witted, sometimes-acerbic, honest and forthright individual. He was his own man until the end.

Robinson died Friday at UNC Hospitals from pneumonia, which resulted from H1N1. He was 58 years old.

Anyone who knew Tom will tell you that he ran at a slightly higher RPM than the rest of us. Anyone who worked for him can relate how particular he was about the way things should be done.

He was, maybe, a little eccentric. He collected things. He raced pigeons. You read that right.

Many of his customers became friends.

Kay Lund and her husband, Mark Price, were in that group. The couple began buying their fish from Robinson in 1982 when he operated out of an outdoor market on the corner of Church and Rosemary streets in Chapel Hill.

Lund said the visit to the seafood shop to provision the family oyster roasts became a tradition, and after Tom moved to Carrboro he became a regular at their Christmas Eve socials.

"He'd be the first person to show up, coming over right after closing up in the afternoon for a single-malt," she said. "Christmas Eve won't be the same without him. I just want to say to him, 'Thanks for all the oysters.'"

PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

SEE ROBINSON PAGE 3



## Town council hears concerns on cell phones and driving

BY BETH MECHUM  
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Chapel Hill Town Council opened a public hearing on cell phone and road safety Monday night, and with it came a flood of anecdotes about what is seen as a growing problem.

Council member Penny Rich, who requested the hearing, spoke of an email from a parent of a UNC student who expressed concern after her daughter was rear-ended two separate times by two separate cell phone-wielding drivers.

Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt spoke of the recent accident in Efland involving a woman who was

seen talking on her cell phone before being struck by an Amtrak train, killing both her and her 5-year-old son.

Coolidge St. resident and former council member Joe Capowski recalled the time a UNC student talking on her cell phone almost knocked him off his bike.

"This is way past an accident waiting to happen," Capowski said.

The council is considering possible regulation of handheld cell phone use by drivers. North Carolina already outlawed texting while driving, but some council members feel that taking it even further would be beneficial.

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 3

## Manager lays out budget realities

BY KIRK ROSS  
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — Town Manager Steve Stewart isn't known for overblown hyperbole or prone to wild exaggeration. So when on Tuesday night he called this year and the one ahead two of the toughest he's faced in 32 years of drafting budgets, it underlined what town leaders are facing, again, as budget season rolls around.

"Sounds like it's going to be a fun spring," Alderman Jacquie Gist deadpanned after hearing Stewart's reality check at a meeting of the board at Town Hall.

Stewart said that paying for the opening and staffing of the new fire station on Homestead Road and a mandatory increase in the rate the town pays into the employee retirement fund are the biggest fiscal challenges.

He also said he made a pledge to the town's employees that he would do everything he could to avoid any layoffs and furloughs. That'll mean

holding open unfilled positions, cutting back on training and forgoing proposed changes to the town's pay classifications and merit pay system.

In order to avoid a tax increase, the town will have to keep a tight rein on spending.

"We'll be lucky just to continue to do what we've been doing. I don't see that there's any room for new programs or expansion unless we cut somewhere else or we look at a tax increase being imposed," Stewart said.

Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton said he expects Stewart to try to hold the line on taxes.

"I know the manager will do what he can to make sure there's as little change in taxes as he can figure out how to do," Chilton said Wednesday.

Chilton said he was concerned about the impact on town employees of another year of short staffs and no pay increases.

"I feel like the town's employees have been partners with the taxpayers in trying to deal with the recession," he said.

The board, Chilton said, will need to find a way of letting employees know they are valued by the community.

"We need to find some way to make sure [the employees] are feeling the love," the mayor said.

Also Tuesday night, the board adopted new rules for the design review process for downtown developments. The changes were made to allow for greater flexibility in judging a project's design.

In other action, the board delayed a public hearing on a revision of the town's outdoor-lighting ordinance and on modifications to the town's affordable-housing rules.

The board also delayed a decision on whether to change banks. Chilton said the town's finance department staff is short-staffed and board members wanted to hold off on a decision until the matter could be more thoroughly reviewed and the finance department better prepared to make a change.

## Congregations examine issues in mental health

BY TAYLOR SISK  
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Like society at large, faith communities often struggle with the complexities of mental illness — how to know, how to help, what to say.

Recognizing the need for better insight, a multi-congregational organization called Faith Connections on Mental Illness convened a forum at Binkley Baptist Church this past Sunday titled "Faith, Hope and Love: When One Suffers from a Mental Illness." This was the second year the forum was held. Approximately a hundred people attended.

A panel of clergy members and advocates, including recipients of mental health care services, stressed the importance of accepting that a person can appear "normal" while experiencing

SEE MENTAL HEALTH PAGE 3

## Women's art at heart of fundraising success

BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Good ideas, like art and wine, improve with time. In 1983, when Moreton Neal attended a fundraiser for the fledgling Women's Center, she spent her time at the ice cream social held at Pyewacket (a popular quasi-vegetarian restaurant in The Courtyard from 1977-2002) envisioning a better way to raise money.

"Quite frankly, I was a little jealous of Pyewacket," Neal said recently during a lunch of sandwiches from Neal's Deli (owned by son Matt and his wife, Sheila Neal) at her Greenwood neighborhood home.

Twenty-six years ago, Neal was adjusting to life as a single mom while running La Residence, the restaurant she had started with her ex — Bill Neal, whom she had met in French class during their senior year at Duke. The former art major thought of her female employees, many of whom were struggling artists with few options for exhibits, and she visualized a gathering at La Res, with walls adorned with art by women, in her woman-owned-and-run restaurant.

SEE RECENTLY PAGE 5



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Perry Deane Young and Moreton Neal surrounded by art collected from her years of curating the Women's Center's annual event.

### INSIDE

#### The facade of saving Bolin Creek

See Opinion, page 6

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## Community Briefs

### Suggestions wanted

The budget process for reviewing community needs is underway, and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and town manager welcome feedback from town residents. The final budget is planned for adoption on June 15. Carrboro residents may email written suggestions to the town's website at [swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org](mailto:swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org), write to the town clerk at 301 West Main Street, Carrboro, N.C. 27510 or fax comments to her at 918-4456.

### Chapel Hill needs event volunteers

The Town of Chapel Hill is seeking volunteers to serve on special events planning committees for the July 4th Celebration and the annual Festival Arts Festival in October. Special-events planning committees work with a staff liaison to plan, develop and evaluate events. Committees usually meet monthly and may meet more frequently as the event time draws near. Meetings begin in March. To get involved, print and complete an application at [townofchapelhill.org/communityevents](http://townofchapelhill.org/communityevents) and email to Wes Tilghman at [wtilghman@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:wtilghman@townofchapelhill.org) or fax to 932-2923. You may also call 968-2823 for an application or for more information. There is no deadline for applications.

### Carrboro Parks Project seeks input

Carrboro Parks Project (CPP) is a nonprofit community organization that works to improve the quality of life in Carrboro through the protection and improvement of parks and recreational facilities. With the help of community members, CPP has been able to complete four projects since 2001.

The CPP is currently looking for new members and project ideas. You can participate by emailing your suggestions to [info@carrboroparks.org](mailto:info@carrboroparks.org) or by attending a meeting tonight (Thurs.) at 7 p.m. in room 4 of the Century Center. For more information, visit [carrboroparks.org](http://carrboroparks.org)

## MOVIES

### CHELSEA THEATER

**Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005**  
Blood Done Sign My Name; The Last Station; Crazy Heart; The Messenger; A Single Man

### CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM

**309 W Morgan St., 560-3030**  
Friday-Monday 2010 Oscar-nominated animated shorts nightly (except Saturday) at 9:30 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 4:30 p.m. and 2010 Oscar nominated live action shorts nightly (except Saturday) at 7:20 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:20 p.m.; Crazy Heart, nightly at 7 & 9:15 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 & 4:15 p.m.; The Last Station, nightly at 7:10 & 9:20 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:10 & 4:25 p.m.

### THE LUMINA

**Southern Village, 932-9000**  
Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief; The Wolfman; Vantine's Day; Dear John; Up in the Air

### REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6

**120 Banks Drive, 933-8600**  
Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief; The Wolfman; Vantine's Day; Dear John; From Paris with Love; Tooth Fairy

### VARSITY THEATER

**123 East Franklin St., 967-8865**  
Avatar; Monty Python & the Holy Grail; Mary Poppins

## Community Calendar

### THURSDAY, FEB 25

**Coffee Cupping** — Open Eye Cafe presents a free class - Coffee Cupping. Open to the community, free of charge. 7pm in the cafe's side room. RSVP to [coffeescott@gmail.com](mailto:coffeescott@gmail.com) as space is limited. For more info, contact [openeyecafe.com](mailto:openeyecafe.com), or 968-9410.



### SATURDAY, FEB 28

**Ride for Relief** — Open Eye Café in Carrboro hosts Ride for Relief at 9am, staging pre-ride refreshments. This event offers two ride options: 24 or 50 miles. The 24-mile ride leaves Carrboro and heads to the Dairyland area and back. The 50-mile ride goes to Saxapahaw and back. The Saxapahaw General Store will provide the opportunity for snacks and water bottle refills. Cyclists of all abilities are welcome - this is not a race. All participants will be required to sign a waiver prior to participation. \$10 minimum donation requested. Donations support the Red Cross Haiti effort.

### TUESDAY, MAR 2

**Movie Nite @ the Library** — Movie Nite @ the Library presents *Elizabeth* - starring Cate Blanchett - at 6:45pm in the Chapel Hill Public Library Meeting Room. The film is rated R. Free, no sign-up needed. For more info, 969-2028.

**Modern Alchemy** — The Central North Carolina Mineral Club will host Phoenix Miller, Chapel Hill decorative artist and gilder. She will give a slide presentation on Modern Alchemy: Turning Clay into Silver, at 7 pm at the Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd. in Chapel Hill. Open to the public, free of charge. Fore more info, 968-2070.

### Ongoing



**Cancer Support** — Support groups for cancer patients and their families. [cornucopiahouse.org](http://cornucopiahouse.org)

**Compassionate Friends** — Free self-help support for all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Evergreen United Methodist Church. 967-3221, [chapelhilltcf.org](http://chapelhilltcf.org)

**Yoga for Everyone** — UNC Comprehensive Cancer Support Program presents Yoga for Everyone. Each class will include a full yoga practice as well as exploration of physical movement, meditation, breathing techniques, and relaxation. All levels are welcome. Classes will be held on Mondays from 11am-12:30pm. Carolina Pointe II, 6013 Farrington Road, Suite 101 in Chapel Hill. 966-3494.

**Family to Family** — A series of 12 weekly classes structured to help family members understand and support a family member suffering with mental illness. The class is free and sponsored by NAMI-Orange. Contact Gove Elder at 967-5403 or [gelder@bellsouth.net](mailto:gelder@bellsouth.net).

**Friends of Downtown** — With coffee at 9:30 and meeting at 10am, Friends of Downtown meet the last Thursday of every month on the second floor of the Franklin Hotel. An update on what's happening downtown will follow a weekly speaker.

**View and Realization of the Foundation Path** — "The View and Realization of the Foundation Path" is a set of classes offered Wednesday nights, 7:30-9pm in February. The sessions take place at Piedmont KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center in Carrboro. All are welcome. The classes are informal and designed for discussion with time for questions. A brief sitting meditation will be included. Suggested donation for each class: \$5. More info at [piedmontktc.org](http://piedmontktc.org), 968-9426.

**Walking Group** — The Chapel Hill Area Women's Walking Group will meet every Wednesday at Weaver St. Market in Carrboro at 9:15 a.m. Then, there will either be a hike or carpool to the designated site. If questions, contact Julie at 967-3221 or Marilyn at 932-1411.

**Garden Tour** — Free tour of the N.C. Botanical Garden display gardens. Saturdays, 10am, in front of the Totten Center at the Garden. 962-0522, [ncbg.unc.edu](http://ncbg.unc.edu)

**Jazz at the Mall** — University Mall presents free jazz concerts every Sunday, 2-4pm

**Job Search Meeting** — A networking and support group for job hunters. Wednesdays, 9:30-11am, Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive. 942-4964

**Breastfeeding Café** — An informal drop-in gathering of breastfeeding moms will be held every Monday from 1-2pm at the Red Hen. A La Leche representative will be there to provide information and answer questions, 201 Weaver St.

**Tutoring** — Hillsborough Police Department and UNC Habitat for Humanity offer tutoring sessions for students in Orange County School's K-5 classes at the Community Policing Station, 501 Rainey Ave. Tutors are students from UNC. Call 732-2441, ext. 26 to register.

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- Terri Turner, Weaver Street Realty

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[marty@carrborocitizen.com](mailto:marty@carrborocitizen.com)

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Sat & Sun Matinees at 4:30 PM  
Friday - Monday: 4 days only! (Digitally projected)  
**2010 Oscar-Nominated Shorts:**  
Animation  
Nightly except Saturday 7:20 PM  
Sat & Sun Matinees at 2:20 PM  
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[www.carolinatheatre.org](http://www.carolinatheatre.org) | 919.560.3030

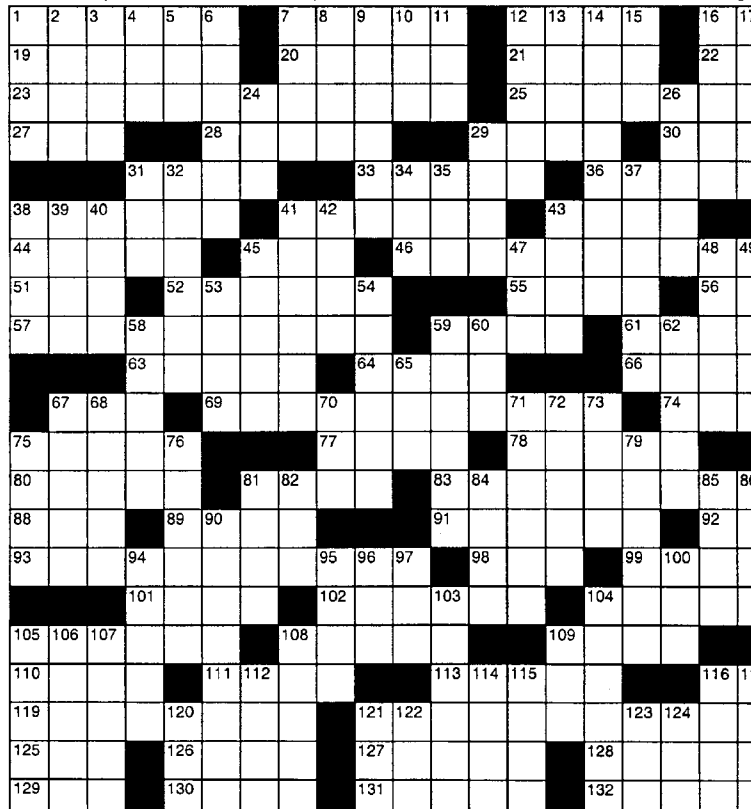
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## SUPER CROSSWORD CAN'T STANDISH STILL

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | <b>DOWN</b>                    |
| 1 WWII site                     | 102 Frequent Funicello co-star |
| 7 Serenely                      | 104 Scanty                     |
| 12 Brazos                       | 105 Roller-coaster feeling     |
| 17 River city                   | 108 1970 World's Fair site     |
| 16 Clerical sash                | 109 Chatterley or Windermere   |
| 57 Tactful                      | 110 Director Nicolas           |
| 19 Point the finger at          | 111 Skip                       |
| 61 Ford flop                    | 113 Turbine part               |
| 20 Synthetic fiber              | 116 — Goncalo, Brazil          |
| 21 Christiania, today           | 119 Avoidance                  |
| 22 Remote                       | 121 Answer to riddle           |
| 23 Riddle: Part 1               | 125 Swell                      |
| 25 Gershwin's "in Blue"         | 126 Actor Barry                |
| 27 Beatty or Buntline           | 127 Murcia mister              |
| 28 Gaggle gal                   | 128 Farm adolescent            |
| 29 Watch part                   | 129 Weaken                     |
| 30 Fountain order               | 130 — -Neisse Line             |
| 31 Rocker Marc                  | 131 Early German               |
| 33 Nature spirit                | 132 Spanish —                  |
| 36 Sable, for one               |                                |
| 38 Lee of "The Fall Guy"        |                                |
| 41 Cantaloupe's cousin          |                                |
| 43 Team (Toyota model)          |                                |
| 44 Skater Berezhnaya            |                                |
| 45 Bleak critique               |                                |
| 46 Riddle: Part 2               |                                |
| 51 Papua New Guinea port        |                                |
| 52 Contaminates                 | 5 Shake-spearan snake          |
| 55 Butz or Warren               | 6 Equine exclamations          |
| 56 Sapporo                      | 7 Kelly's possum               |
| 58 Tactful                      | 8 Goofs                        |
| 61 Ford flop                    | 9 Tabloid subjects             |
| 63 Malne town                   | 10 Dot follower                |
| 64 Space                        | 11 Minnesota twins?            |
| 66 Al — (cooking term)          | 12 Merit                       |
| 67 Lear, to                     | 13 '75 Wimbledon winner        |
| 69 Riddle: Part 3               | 14 More humid                  |
| 74 Fleur-de- —                  | 15 "Alley —"                   |
| 75 Desert schlepper             | 16 In progress                 |
| 77 — Romeo                      | 17 Soup scoop                  |
| 78 Heep of place?               | 18 Adams or Ferry              |
| 80 Dickens                      | 24 Actor Chaney                |
| 81 Prate                        | 26 It needs to be threaded     |
| 82 — (Toyota model)             | 29 Boom or gaff                |
| 81 Cartoonist Silverstein       | 31 Swindle                     |
| 83 Hard to describe             | 32 Wind instrument?            |
| 88 Hurried                      | 34 Split sound                 |
| 89 Little one                   | 35 Exec's deg.                 |
| 91 Prate                        | 37 Perplexed                   |
| 92 — (Toyota model)             | 38 Blend                       |
| 93 Riddle: Part 4               | 39 Jai —                       |
| 98 Loafer part                  | 40 Army vehicle                |
| 99 Gladden                      | 41 "Makin' Whoopee" singer     |
| 101 Alan of "Gilligan's Island" | 42 Pro foe                     |
| 102 Frequent Funicello co-star  |                                |
| 104 Scanty                      |                                |
| 105 Roller-coaster feeling      |                                |
| 108 1970 World's Fair site      |                                |
| 109 Chatterley or Windermere    |                                |
| 110 Director Nicolas            |                                |
| 111 Skip                        |                                |
| 113 Turbine part                |                                |
| 116 — Goncalo, Brazil           |                                |
| 119 Avoidance                   |                                |
| 121 Answer to riddle            |                                |
| 125 Swell                       |                                |
| 126 Actor Barry                 |                                |
| 127 Murcia mister               |                                |
| 128 Farm adolescent             |                                |
| 129 Weaken                      |                                |
| 130 — -Neisse Line              |                                |
| 131 Early German                |                                |
| 132 Spanish —                   |                                |



## CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHCVAPLM 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.

**"Dead or Alive"**

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

## PETS OF THE WEEK

### PAWS4EVER — Meet Sammy!

Sammy is 4 years old and came to us as an owner surrender. He had a massive untreated infection in his left ear. His ear canal had swollen shut from the inflammation, which left amputation as his best option. Having recovered quickly, Sammy's now more than ready for his new home. He would do best in a home with little commotion, since he's somewhat shy due to the pain he endured while in the "care" of his human. A little love and compassion would go a long way with this guy! Once petted, he will raise his rump and flip his tail, thoroughly enjoying the rub-down. As a result of the persistence of Paws4Ever, Sammy knows that most humans want the best for him. Shown the proper love and care, he will be an excellent pet in the right home! Please come by the shelter and take a look, at Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at [paws4ever.org](http://paws4ever.org)



### ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Say hello to Howser!

This handsome lab mix is around 2 years old and ready to find a new place to call home. He is a sweet goofball who's so gentle, you will forget he comes in a larger size. He loves people and toys, but isn't pushy or intrusive. He will wiggle to say hello, but listens well and calms down quickly when asked to. This boy aims to please and is eager to do whatever it is that makes you happy. He will be a wonderful addition to almost any home. Come check him out today! You can visit him at Orange County's Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill or call 942-PETS (7387). You can also see him online at [co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp](http://co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp).



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7		6						2
	4			8	1	7		
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2		9					1	
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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  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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## News Briefs

### Gloria Steinem to host fundraiser for documentary

Gloria Steinem calls it "the best film I've ever seen on domestic violence." To back those words up, Steinem will be traveling to Chapel Hill this weekend to host a fundraiser in support of *Private Violence*, a feature-length doc from local filmmakers Cynthia Hill and Rebecca Ceresse and domestic-violence advocate and survivor Kit Gruelle, in which Steinem appears.

The event will take place this Sunday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Spice Street in University Mall, with a minimum donation of \$25 per person.

Also speaking will be feminist and author Ann Jones, National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Executive Director Deborah Tucker, Pulitzer Prize-winning author George Lardner and domestic-violence survivors Fran Bumgarner and Vernetta Cockerham. Poet/musician Shirlette Ammons and singer/songwriter Greg Humphreys will perform. The event also will include an auction of memorabilia signed by Steinem. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served with a cash bar available.

For more information, call 824-0811 or email privateviolence@gmail.com

### ROBINSON FROM PAGE 1

The Lantern restaurant's Andrea Reusing said Robinson was a straight-shooter with a reputation for fairness with both fishermen and the people who bought his wares. "In the seafood business, you don't always get that," she said.

"He was very honest about what his stake was in something, both with his customers and the people he bought fish from."

Reusing said that over the years, as she got to know him, she saw that same, sometimes-blunt honesty many times.

"You would never not know where Tom stood on something," she said.

Like a lot of his customers, Reusing hopes to see the business continue, and not just because of the seafood it supplies.

"It's one of those rare places where you'll see an African-American grandmother, a

woman from Japan and a man from Spain all in the same room at once," she said. "We know we live in a diverse community, but you don't see it in many places like that. The shop is a huge gift to the community, and I hope we can hold onto it."

Robinson's longtime companion Kay Hamrick said that thought has been in her heart as well. She's talked it over with the shop's employees and the many friends, personal and professional, who have offered condolences.

"The shop is still in operation, although with a lot less selection right now," she said.

Robinson is gone, but keeping the network of fishermen and suppliers connected to the legion of loyal customers seems the only right thing to do.

"We're going to try to keep it open," Hamrick said.

A memorial service for Tom Robinson has been scheduled for Sunday, March 7 at Walkers Funeral Home.

### COUNCIL FROM PAGE 1

Rich said that to set a good example for her teenage children, she doesn't use her cell phone while driving. Council member Sally Greene said that while she does occasionally use her cell phone while driving, she'd like to think she would stop if it became illegal.

Other council members questioned the enforcement issue. To date, the number of people stopped for texting while driving is at most five, according to Assistant Police Chief Bob Overton, due to how difficult the law is to enforce.

Overton said it would presumably be easier to see someone talking on a phone than someone texting, but that there

would be exemptions, such as calling 911. He said a police officer would have to do a search and seizure on the phone if the driver claimed exemption, and that that's getting into an area in which many officers are uncomfortable.

The council will further consider the issue after reviewing an informational report scheduled to be released in April by the General Assembly.

A public forum was also held on proposed changes to the tree-protection ordinance. According to the town, "The draft ordinance would establish minimum tree canopy coverage requirements for individual lots and tracts. It also would establish standards related to significant tree-removal activities on residential properties, excluding many routine maintenance activities."

Many residents were on hand to speak on this issue, with the majority against the ordinance.

Ralph Mason, a Chapel Hill resident, showed a picture of his house and said that if the ordinance were passed he'd have to plant trees in his yard, where his grandchildren love to play croquet and volleyball in the sun.

"While I love trees, I also love well-manicured lawns," Mason said.

Resident Scott Radway also voiced concern about the ordinance, saying, "I think the way this is written is an administrative and functional nightmare."

Council member Jim Ward said that though he loves trees, the ordinance does seem overreaching. "I try to be the Lorax and speak for the trees, but this ordinance needs some work," he said.

Those in support of the ordinance expressed their desire to keep Chapel Hill a beautiful place to live, free of an excess of parking lots and buildings with no trees.

The ordinance proposal is scheduled to return for council consideration on May 24, with possible revisions based on public feedback and concerns expressed by council.

In other action, the council approved an agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation on the use of federal and bond funds for new sidewalks on Weaver Dairy Road between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Erwin Road, and authorized the town manager to enter into an agreement with UNC to proceed with upgrades to traffic-signal measures.

### MENTAL HEALTH FROM PAGE 1

deep-seated pain, and that the best therapy a minister or fellow churchgoer can provide is acceptance and inclusion.

"I'm struggling every moment of the day," said Christine Jernigan, a member of Binkley Baptist. She said that what she most wants to hear when returning to church after an absence due to her illness is, "So glad you're back."

Jernigan said she doesn't understand why she used to cut her arms, and she can't

expect anyone else to either. But, "Let me know that you're taking me seriously," she said.

Just as it does in society at large, the stigma of mental illness persists within the church. "It's not talked about," said David Girod, a Methodist minister who is bi-polar. Girod said that admitting he lived with a mental illness meant "coming out," uncertain of how he would be received, and finding support from fellow clergy.

Dale Osborne, an associate minister at Binkley, said members of his congregation came to him to suggest that

Binkley become a "beacon of light" for those with mental illness. The church now provides education on mental illness, including a class called Faith and Mental Health, and sometimes addresses the disease from the pulpit.

Osborne said the church must strive to embrace the "reconciling" spirit that Jesus advocated.

Emmanuel Katongole, a Catholic priest on the faculty of Duke Divinity School, spoke of a friend with mental illness who sometimes chose not to attend church services because she didn't want to feel

obliged to smile and pretend to be happy. Katongole suggested that too often the church aims for a "Marine spirituality" – clean-shaven and efficient – but that perhaps it should be more open to a "messier" theology that acknowledges, "This is who we are. We have come to worship."

He said the search for spirituality is a journey of lament and rage and, still, hope. The underlying message conveyed Sunday was that it is the church community's calling to nourish that hope.

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**6TH GRADE - AB:**

Milly Ames, Janan Armstrong, Rohan Arora, Masiel Bautista, Mia Bennett, Alexander Blackburn, Eric Bonilla, Theodore Brown, John Bryan, May Burgard, Nayeli Campos-Franco, Edith Carreto, Brittany Castevens, Saane Chamberlin-Finau, Holly Cheek, Alexander Clarke, Jethro Cohn, Christopher Colley Jr, Patrick Dennehy, Jared Devon, Elise Dixon, Iain Dixon, Connor Doble, Ashton Douthart, Nicholas Econopouly, Emma Edwards, Joshaly Edwards, Keilon Ellison-Burnett, Edward Fessler, Darshan Gove, Elizabeth Greer, Paige Haskins, Kyle Healy, Lindsayann Heath, Steven Heine, Kaitlin Hill, Blake Hirth, Kyle Hornik, Joshua Huemmer, Makaylah Hunter-Toney, Elise Jelstrup-Iachetta, Erica Johnson, Noah Johnson, Brian Jones, Hannah Jones, Sarah Jones, Anna Kelley, Lia Klein, Daniel Kleissler, Ryan Kleissler Samantha Lane, Carlyn LeMoine, Leanna Long, William Macmillan, Maximilian Mahadevan, McKenzie Matherly, James Menache, Thomas Mozier, Nicole Newhouse, Trevor Newhouse, Gustavo Patino, Carlos Patino-Rivera, Tierra Perry, Nicholas Plonk, James Porter, Forrest

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**8TH GRADE - A:**

Kathryn Alexander, Emma Anderson, Joel Anil, Anna Baynes, Brett Buchman, Megan Dell, Riley Foster, Christopher Greaney, Nathaniel Hebert, Rebecca Heine, Nina Hendrickson, David Hicks Kimon Iliadis, Kaitlin Jones, Aaron Josephs, Tyler Keith-Pedersen, Larry Lapushin, Maxwell LeMoine, Rachel Lennon Madeline McNeal, Paul Miller, Shannon Mumper, Carly Narotsky Nell Ovitt, Grace Porter, Ashley Powell, Frances Reuland, Catherine Romaine, Evan Rose, Haruka Suzuki, Madeline Taylor, Rachel van Aalst, Alexander Walker, Brandon Walker

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**School Briefs**

**Quiz Bowl champs**

Ephesus Elementary held its fourth annual Black History Quiz Bowl on Thursday, Feb. 18, with the fifth-grade team of Wyatt Foster, Sarah Kurt, Kierra McDougall, Alexa O'Brien, Nyoke Roberson and Cameron Stamps defeating a fourth-grade team of Caroline Baldwin, Liam Derby, Quinn Foster, Joshua Frahm, Jebichiy Maritim and Ian Proctor.

The contest included two rounds of 60 questions covering topics in slavery and the civil rights movement, literature and arts/entertainment, inventors/political science and sports medicine. Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Dubois, Rosa Parks, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, Ralph Ellison, Jesse Owens and Michael Jordan were a few of the noted figures covered in questions.

**Speaking competition**

Melanie Rio, a senior at Carrboro High School, was selected to advance in regional competition of the English Speaking Union's National Shakespeare Competition.

Carrboro High hosted a qualifying round for the competition on Thursday, Feb. 11. At the regional contest, to be held today (Thurs.) at Wake Technical Community College, students from eastern North Carolina high schools will perform a 20-line monologue and sonnet. The winner of this competition will receive an expenses-paid trip to New York City for the national competition.

In preparation for the CHS contest, 14 students participated in a four-week Shakespeare Acting Workshop led by a visiting artist from UNC's Playmakers Repertory Company. The workshop was sponsored by Encore, the school's performing-arts

booster club. It was funded in part by a grant from the Orange County Arts Commission.

Senior Marshall Rogalski finished second in the qualifying round, while sophomore Alexa Yaemes placed third.

**Trice to serve on board**

Executive Director of Technology and Instruction Rodney Trice has been appointed to serve on the state's Information Technology Advisory Board. Trice was appointed to the board by N.C. Speaker of the House Joe Hackney (D-Orange). His appointment begins immediately and extends through September 30, 2011.

In his appointment letter, Hackney thanked Trice for his willingness to share his time and talent in moving North Carolina forward in the area of information technology.

**Family Culture Night**

McDougle Elementary held its annual Family Culture Night this past Thursday. Hundreds of families came out to learn about students' family heritages.

Each student utilized a passport to travel to various country tables. Individual tables showcased cultural foods, games, art, clothing and more. Students completed make-and-take activities at some of the tables and asked the presenters questions. Throughout the evening, there were performances in salsa dancing, belly dancing and group dancing. Families learned about Australia, Africa, China, Japan, Mexico, Lithuania, Germany, England, Switzerland, Haiti and more.

The event was sponsored by the MES PTA.

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**TUE 3/2** — Chicken & Noodles; Taco Salad w/Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato; "Fun on the Run"; Seasoned Pinto Beans; Seasoned Green Beans; Fresh Oranges

**WED 3/3** — Chicken Patty Sandwich on a Wheat Bun; Beef & Macaroni w/Wheat Roll; Sweet Yellow Corn; Steamed Carrots; Chilled Fruit Cocktail

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**RECENTLY**  
FROM PAGE 1

"I knew that just the art of the people who worked for me would fill the restaurant," Neal said, realizing a show there would further uphold women and, thus, the mission of the center.

She offered the suggestion, and in 1984 an art show was inaugurated with ice cream replaced by hors d'oeuvres and wine.

It was a hit. "They raised \$5,000," Neal said. It was much better than the \$500 scooped from ice cream.

The late Didi Dunphey, a dedicated feminist, artist and huge supporter of the center, named the annual exhibit "Through Women's Eyes," and a few years later, when crafts by women were included, "By Women's Hands" was added to the title.

In 1989, the Women's Center opened in its present location at 210 Henderson St. and the show moved there, with Neal and Dunphey continuing to hang the art, in an event so popular that it became a juried show with artists donating a portion of sales to the center.

A new hanging partner entered the picture for the 1994 show, after Perry Deane Young moved into the basement of the Women's Center in. He proves that the organization that impacts more than 4,000 women, girls and their families each year also helps men.

An author and journalist, Young returned to Chapel Hill to complete his degree. "I put an ad in the paper saying, 'Expert gardener and handyman will exchange work for place to live.' One of the carpenters of the remodel when the Women's Center moved in had put an apartment down there," Young explained.

Raised on his family's plant nursery, Young (who is an uncle of the beleaguered Andrew Young, the former aide to John Edwards) has made it his business to always have something

blooming on the grounds of the center, where financial and legal education are provided, adolescent-empowerment programs are held and support groups meet, among other services.

The annual fundraiser grew into a weeklong series of events held at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center, then later at the Chapel Hill Sheraton. Last year, with the need to increase profits during a slow economy, the art show returned to its home base with a tent erected in the parking lot.

"It was magical," Young said. "There was a disc jockey and dancing until 2 a.m.! It was the most fun I've ever had at a fundraiser."

But it wasn't Young's first time experiencing magic from the organization.

"The Women's Center for me was a lifesaver," he said. Last year when Young underwent eight weeks of radiation for prostate cancer, he was well cared for by the staff. "They were like family," Young said. "They were there when I needed them. Anne Gerhardt, the executive director, is really wonderful, and we became very close."

This year, the main event of Through Women's Eyes, By Women's Hands will be a cocktail reception held on March 5 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Women's Center, that will feature signature dishes prepared by local women chefs. The art, which will be hung in the house (and may be previewed at womenspace.org), will be exhibited through April 9. Tickets are \$75.

Neal and Young look forward to the parts they play in the show, and Neal looks forward to the opportunity to add another piece of art to her wonderful collection.

"Almost all of the art in my home has been bought at the Orange County Women's Center shows," she said. "These pictures bring back happy memories of the show over the years, and their beauty blesses my home."

Call 968-4610 for more information.

Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-3746 or valariekays@mac.com

**OBITUARIES**

**Mary Haynes Spence Wilson**

The earthly life of Mary Haynes Spence Wilson came to an end on the morning of Feb. 11, 2010, at the Pavilion in Croasdaile Village in Durham, N.C. For the decade leading up to her 90th birthday, New Year's Day 2009, Mrs. Wilson lived independently in the Abbotswood at Irving Park retirement community in Greensboro. Soon after turning 90, her health declined rapidly and she was moved to a skilled-nursing facility in Durham to be close to her younger son and his family.

Harry and Olive Haynes were thrilled to welcome Somerville, N.J.'s first baby of 1919, a daughter they named Mary. In 1939, Mary married Thomas Brand Spence Jr. Together they had two sons, Harry Haynes Spence, retired from the United States Army in Washington, D.C., and David Alexander Spence, a resident of Durham. The Spence family moved south to Greensboro in 1952, just in time to become charter members of the new Star-mount Presbyterian Church. Sadly, that marriage ended two years later. By 1956, Mary had fallen in love again and married Paul James Wilson (co-owner of the C.H. Slater Realty and Mortgage Company), thereby adding three stepchildren to her home, Patricia Wilson Riddle, now deceased; Catherine Wilson Kimel, wife of Greensboro attorney Jim Kimel, and Paul James Wilson Jr., now residing with his wife, Joline, in Mililani, Hawaii.

With five children to raise, Mary Wilson focused on being a homemaker, but she also found time to faithfully serve as a community volunteer. For more than three decades, she was a regular with the Wesley Long Hospital Auxiliary, thoroughly enjoying her weekly assignments. She also volunteered for many years at Greensboro Urban Ministry. In later life, she especially enjoyed needlework, her favorite game shows, Carolina basketball and

weekend NASCAR on television. She would have been thrilled with the news that her personal friend Mark Martin had the pole position last weekend at Daytona.

Mary Wilson is survived by her children, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are through Walker's Funeral Home in Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Jesse Satia**

Jessie Satia, Ph.D., died at her home in Chapel Hill, N.C. on Feb. 4, 2010, after a long illness. Dr. Satia was associate professor of nutrition and epidemiology at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. She also was special assistant to the dean for diversity. Born in the state of Washington, Dr. Satia grew up in Cameroon. She returned to the U.S. and earned a bachelor of science degree in microbiology, a master of science degree in laboratory medicine, a master of public health degree in epidemiology and a doctorate in nutritional epidemiology, all from the University of Washington at Seattle.

Dr. Satia was a postdoctoral fellow and later a research assistant professor at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. She joined the UNC nutrition department faculty in 2002 as an assistant professor. She also became a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2002. For two years, Dr. Satia worked in the department of global epidemiology at Amgen Inc. in Thousand Oaks, Calif. She returned to UNC in late 2005 as an assistant professor of nutrition and epidemiology and special assistant to the dean for diversity. In 2007, she was promoted to associate professor, tenured in the departments of nutrition and epidemiology.

She was passionate about reducing health disparities and understanding the nature of those disparities, especially in cancer. She also was helping

the school increase recruitment of diverse faculty members. During her career, Dr. Satia published more than 65 papers and authored two book chapters. Her numerous awards and honors include the Graduate Student Fellowship Award from the University of Washington and the New Investigator Award from the American Society of Preventive Oncology in 1999. In 2001, she won the Dannon Leadership Institute's Nutrition Leadership Institute Award. She has been a three-time recipient, in 1999, 2001 and 2003, of the Minority Research Scholar Award given by the American Association for Cancer Research.

The overarching focus of Dr. Satia's research was the association of nutrition- and diet-related factors with chronic diseases, particularly human cancers. Her primary research interests were cancer etiology, nutritional epidemiology (dietary assessment), minority participation in research studies and cancer survivorship. She conducted research to study relationships between various dietary factors (including dietary supplements) and colorectal, lung, bladder and prostate cancer risk, with an emphasis on racial and ethnic disparities. She also helped develop simple and practical dietary assessment tools that are adaptable to diverse ethnic and racial populations and in the use of nutrient biomarkers in diet and cancer research.

Dr. Satia explored various methods and strategies to recruit African-Americans into research studies for cancer prevention and control. She also assessed and monitored trends in health-related behaviors among colon- and prostate-cancer survivors and examined whether health behaviors impact cancer prognosis and survival. She served on a number of external committees that address cancer and disparity issues at the local, state and national levels. She was involved with the National Institutes of Health in the Integrative Nutrition and Metabolic Processes Program, the Health Disparity Research in Prostate Cancer Program and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. At UNC, she was a member of the Campus Partnerships for Health Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Minority Faculty of Color and the Campus Partnerships for Health Working Group on addressing health disparities.

In addition to her university and community service, Dr. Satia was a member of a number of national societies that are prominent in the cancer and public-health field, including the American College of Epidemiology, American Association for Cancer Research and the Association of Schools of Public Health's diversity committee.

She is survived by her parents, Drs. Benedict and Philomena Satia, of Bothell, Washington and two younger sisters.

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This newspaper has not shied away from admonishing those in the motoring public to hang up and drive.

In our first year, we suggested that signs saying as much be posted along the roadsides at the entrances to downtown Carrboro. Having now worked three-and-a-half years on Weaver Street and conducted most of my travel during business hours on foot, I am unhappy to report that the habit of talking on the phone while driving, and the inattentiveness that accompanies it, remains rampant.

I am not sure whether bad drivers are bad because of cell phones or bad drivers are more inclined to adopt such practices. Doesn't matter; people have been and are going to get hurt.

I say this as a longtime observer of the interplay of car and man in downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro. During the years I worked at a copy shop with big windows and a full view of the intersection of Columbia and Franklin streets, the crew and I witnessed dozens of incidents. Most were either due to aggression or lack of attention. This was at the dawn of the cell phone age – long before we had turned ourselves into the most tuned-out people to ever walk the earth.

Just from personal observation, I'd say at least half of Carrboro's crosswalk problems are due to drivers on the phone.

It's not just limited to the motorists of course. In the regions near campus, it is sometimes difficult to find a human being not on the phone. And, I'm sorry, I really don't get biking on an urban street with one hand to your ear.

Lately I've been commiserating with various public officials over this issue. Aside from the rather daunting legal hurdles to ban or limit the use of a federally regulated communication system, there's the logistical challenge of enforcement.

Cracking down may be a part of the solution, but it's not going to change this vice that has become habit. Resources are scarce and the culture is working against the idea of less time on the mobiles.

Chapel Hill may someday be able to adopt a regulation on cell phone use, and Carrboro could find success in improving crosswalk safety, but the odds of another fatal meeting between a pedestrian on the phone and a driver likewise occupied just keeps increasing.

So, as I said a couple of years ago, while the wheels of justice are turning, why not a parallel effort to address the behavior? What's wrong with a few signs scattered about the downtown areas suggesting that it is unsafe, unwise and, well, uncool to drive while chatting?

I've always liked "Hang up and Drive" as a slogan, but I've been told it sounds too harsh and not friendly enough. So how about this one: "Tell a Friend to Hang Up and Drive."

## Sail on

There are some people you think of when you think of Carrboro, and Tom Robinson was one of them. I've bought fish from him for the past 20 years or so. And working downtown over the past few years, I've found myself in the shop quite often and developed an even deeper appreciation of his knowledge and his love for the coast of our fair state.

Tom grew up on the coast. His grandfather's place was in Atlantic on Core Sound. He understood the fisheries and the life of those who worked the waters. You could point to a fish and he could tell you what sound it was pulled from and when, and proceed to tell you about that particular body of water.

He understood the challenge to our waters presented by rampant development and lax enforcement, and how it was decimating a once-vibrant and proud way of life.

Tom Robinson built us a genuine fish house and stocked it with the best our waters had to offer, and he passed on the traditions he grew up in to customers and employees alike.

The shop will stay open and those traditions will live on and, I expect, his name will as well. That's a legacy anyone would wish for, and in this case it's well deserved.

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## The facade of saving Bolin Creek

DAVE OTTO

For the past decade, as a founding member of the Friends of Bolin Creek, I have fought tirelessly to preserve the Bolin Creek corridor. For much of that time, I served as chairman and leading advocate for the creation of a "park and preserve" along the creek between Estes Drive and Homestead Road. While the Carrboro Board of Aldermen lavishly praised our efforts, the Town of Carrboro never took any action to create a Bolin Creek park or preserve. The usual excuse was that the town had neither the funds nor the manpower to acquire and maintain such a park. In fact, the town is still struggling to pay down the debt incurred by the purchase of the Adams Tract.

During the past two years, I have been privileged to serve on the Carrboro Greenways Commission, helping to plan greenways along the two major streams in Carrboro – Bolin and Morgan creeks. Designing greenways for the community has expanded my thinking beyond the preservation of woodland and riparian corridors. The primary function of greenways is to connect neighborhoods, schools and parks. A closely related function is to provide a transit corridor for commuting to school, work or shopping centers. Greenways also provide important opportunities for recreation and healthy living in an increasingly urban environment. Finally, greenways connect woodlands, providing corridors essential for the preservation of wildlife species. Greenways thus serve an important secondary role in environmental preservation, but the primary function is creating community.

I now find myself in the thankless position of advocating for the town's initiative to create a greenway between Estes Drive and Homestead Road, an effort that many perceive as the violation of a sacred trust in my prior role as leader of the Friends of Bolin Creek to preserve this very land. A new movement to "Save Bolin Creek" has arisen to oppose the proposed greenway, and I am frequently on the other side of the fence, arguing with friends and colleagues about the merits of the greenway. While there is sincere disagreement about the surface and location of the greenway, the Greenways Commission, the Friends of Bolin Creek and the new Save Bolin Creek are all committed to preserving the Bolin Creek corridor. The disagreement really reduces to how best to preserve the land and to serve the community.

In my view, this disagreement boils down to access to the Bolin Creek cor-

ridor and adjacent woodlands. That is, opponents of the proposed greenway have constructed an elaborate facade of "environmental preservation" to conceal the real motive, which is to limit access to the creek and woodlands. This facade takes a variety of forms. One of my neighbors, who lives in a prime creek-side lot, candidly admitted his reason for opposing the greenway: "It's classic NIMBYism; I don't want a greenway in my backyard!" Many others who adamantly oppose the greenway also live in prime creek-side locations, although few will admit to NIMBYism.

On the other hand, many opponents of the greenway do not live creekside. The most common criticism from this faction is that an impervious surface in the riparian zone will increase runoff and degrade the quality of the creek. Dave Cook expressed this sentiment last week in a Citizen op-ed ("Not my vision"): "Suffice it to say that the com-

munity resource for recreation, exercise and as a respite "to replenish our souls," but to claim that Bolin Forest is a pristine nature preserve is poppycock! The myth is seductive, but reality has long been otherwise.

The hypocrisy of this argument is compounded by the fact that many of the hikers, bikers and runners who regularly use these trails are the loudest opponents of the greenway. In other words, they want to keep these marvelous woodlands for themselves! Dr. David Wohl, in his letter last week, summarized this hypocrisy eloquently: "heartless elitists whose agility is only matched by our callousness to the disabled, a cartel of landed gentry with a hidden agenda to make the forest our own private recreation area, a band of opportunists blind and neglectful to social justice..." Yes, Wohl; you hit the nail on the head!

"Don't pave it all," the header of Wohl's letter, illustrates another common misconception – i.e., that construction of the proposed greenway will somehow destroy all of the undeveloped land between Estes Drive and Homestead Road. Let's consider some basic facts about Carolina North, which constitutes 60 percent of

the land in question. Greenway opponents cleverly note that a 10-foot-wide concrete path extending for 2.5 miles along the creek results in three acres of concrete. The corollary is that UNC has committed to preserve 600 acres of Carolina North for the next 50 years. In other words, the proposed greenway would utilize 3/600ths, or one-half of 1 percent, of the total acreage of Carolina North, which will not be developed in our lifetime! Wohl argued that "the benefits of keeping one part of Bolin Forest unpaved outweigh the benefits of paving it." Is 0.5 percent of Bolin Forest too much for Wohl to provide access to everyone in the community?

While I applaud the efforts of individuals and groups interested in preserving the Bolin Creek corridor, I am convinced that the "environmental preservation" arguments of many greenway opponents are simply a facade to conceal efforts to limit access to the Bolin Creek corridor. I challenge all who love this community treasure to step back and consider what is really in the best interest of the larger, rapidly growing community!

*Dave Otto is vice chair of the Friends of Bolin Creek and the Carrboro Greenways Commission. The opinions expressed here are his own and do not represent the views of either group.*

*I now find myself in the thankless position of advocating for the town's initiative to create a greenway between Estes Drive and Homestead Road.*

paction of the soil by heavy machinery... will do nothing good for stormwater runoff." Cook is correct that compaction of the soil creates problems, but the surface of the OWASA roadway is *already* impervious, hardened by decades of use and abuse by heavy equipment to maintain the sewer line and by the relentless pounding of hikers, bikers and runners who use the roadway. Considerable sediment washes from the roadway whenever there is heavy rain. As a general rule, impervious surfaces should not be constructed in riparian corridors. Contrary to what opponents claim, construction of an impervious greenway *in this case* would actually stabilize the roadway, prevent abrading of land beside the roadway and reduce sedimentation of the creek.

In the same op-ed, Cook paints a poignant and romantic image of the crusade to preserve Bolin Forest: "I am writing for the woods themselves, the character of them," implying that the woodlands are a pristine wilderness that construction of the greenway will destroy. This argument is another common form of the environmental facade.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Bolin Forest is honeycombed with trails built by mountain bikers and is extensively used by hikers, bikers and runners. The woodlands are a valuable

## Why can't it happen here?

STEVE PEHA

They say the third time's the charm. For the last two months, I've been writing about a simple idea: Let's send all Chapel Hill Carrboro City School kids to college. So far, this idea hasn't found much traction (or opposition, for that matter). But I know this paper gets picked up by thousands of people each week, and I also know that education is a very important issue in our community. So a few of you out there must have read me.

Now I'm not one to beat a dead horse; but I don't give up easy either, especially when giving up on sending kids to college means giving up on kids. So, if you care one way or the other about this issue, how about writing into The Citizen blog and posting a comment to this article. At least then we might turn this monolog into a dialog.

While y'all have been ignoring me, I've been doin' my homework.

Lately, I've been talking with my friend Corey. He teaches at one of those schools that sends all of its kids to college. He says that about 85 percent of the kids in his school come from poor and minority families. Last year, he taught in a different school system in a different state. I know because I was one of his instructional coaches. So I asked him what the difference was between where he started out as a teacher and where he is now.

"Wow," he said. "It's like night and day. I'm not even sure where to begin." Nonetheless, I prodded him to start somewhere.

"Well, first of all," he said, "we have amazing school leaders. They're just incredible people who know how to move everyone forward toward the same goal."

What about the teachers? I asked. "Yeah, the teachers are great," Corey said. "Of course, they're not all great. But if you don't pull your weight around here, they drop you pretty fast and bring in somebody else."

So what's the "secret sauce," I asked, assuming they had some special approach, superior instructional method or newfangled curriculum. "Well, basically," Corey said. "I think we just work our butt's off to give every kid one heck of an experience every year."

Not exactly hard science, I know. But sometimes it's the homespun ideas that really hit home. What was Corey telling me?

Regardless of the racial, ethnic or socio-economic mix, any school that tries hard enough can send all of its kids to college.

It starts with talented leaders who can move others toward the college-readiness goal.

It doesn't take the best teachers in the world, but everybody has to pull their weight, and school leaders must be decisive about replacing those who don't.

Make sure kids have a great experience every year.

I don't want to minimize the achievement of Corey's school in any way, but this doesn't exactly sound like rocket science to me. Heck, it doesn't even sound like rockets or science. More like simple common sense.

But maybe Corey just works for one of those "outlier" schools. Maybe nobody else in the country pulls this off. And yet, the more I research things, the more schools I find. Amid the Andover's, Exeter's and Sidwell's, there are also Los Angeles' Inner City Education Foundation Public Schools. Here's their mission state-

ment: "The mission of ICEF Public Schools is to prepare all students to attend and compete at the top 100 colleges and universities in the nation."

Doesn't that sound like a great mission? Simple, straightforward, measurable! Now look at our mission statement: "To enable all students to acquire, through programs of excellence and fairness, the knowledge, skills and insights necessary to live rewarding, productive lives in an ever-changing society." Complicated, contrived, not measurable.

And here's what ICEF's founder wrote recently about its students: "ICEF Public Schools are mostly Black (over 85%), incredibly free (as in \$0.00), all are welcome (admission is by lottery if there is a waiting list) and yet very, very successful at getting every student into college (100%) and prepared to compete once they get there (91% are still in college three years after our first graduating class at ICEF)."

Why can't we do this, folks? Don't we even want to try?

I find it hard to believe I'm the only person in this neck of the woods who knows that getting every kid to college is possible – or who thinks that it's important. But there sure doesn't seem to be much interest in talking about this.

Why? What have we got to lose by at least beginning the discussion? I went first. Now it's your turn. You can read my original proposal at this link: [http://bit.ly/2020\\_Vision](http://bit.ly/2020_Vision). You can read my follow-up column at this link: [http://bit.ly/2020\\_FollowUp](http://bit.ly/2020_FollowUp).

As dozens of high schools reach the 100 percent college-readiness goal, it is no longer possible to pretend that it cannot be achieved. The college-readiness revolution is happening all across our country. Why can't it happen here?

## The manipulation of anger

CHRIS FITZSIMON

The anger and frustration in the country is a central part of the national debate, as both political parties vie desperately to manipulate the unrest to their advantage, testing polls and focus groups with messages that have only the faintest ties to reality.

Republicans profess to be the party of limited government as they privately write letters to federal officials begging for money for their states from the stimulus package they condemn as wasteful spending in their appearances on Fox News.

They are somehow defending our personal liberty with their opposition to health care reform that seeks to provide access to care for those who can't afford it and say our personal freedom is threatened by a domineering nanny state as they oppose restrictions on smoking in public or efforts to reduce the salt content in foods.

But there's no talk of a nanny when they refuse to allow gays and lesbians to marry or let a woman make decisions about her own body and reproductive health.

Democrats are responding to the frustrated public by trying to recapture the mantle of the party of the working class with occasional public criticism of Wall Street, even as they privately bow to the finance industry's wishes by backing away from meaningful regulation of the greedy practices that brought the economy to its knees.

Despite its noble intentions, even health care reform started with a compromise with the pharmaceutical industry, not exactly a message that the party is looking out for the common people first.

The contradictions are not lost on observers of the American experience. A recent column in the International Herald Tribune talked of the "fault lines in the American dream" that are reflected in the popular culture – that while most Americans tell pollsters they still believe they can achieve the Dream if they work hard and play by the rules, an increasing number say it is harder to get ahead, reflecting a rising tension between the rich and poor.

The columnist said that when he returned to America after six years in India, he found a shift away from the Horatio Alger mythology and a rising belief that "class is a fate, not a situation," and that things are rigged against the underdog.

There's news every day to confirm that suspicion, from a seldom-discussed special tax break for Wall Street fund managers that allows them to pay less of their income in taxes than most middle-class workers to a Colorado executive who makes \$320,000 and tells the local paper she should not be considered wealthy.

Closer to home, North Carolina leaders tell us this is not the year to reform the state tax code that punishes the poor by taxing far more of the goods they buy than the services the wealthy use. It is never the year.

Instead, the battle is over which mental health service to cut, which tuition for the middle class to raise and which grade will no longer have teacher assistants to help kids who are struggling to read. And that's from the Democrats currently in power.

The alternative from Republicans trying to unseat them is more cuts, not less, and tiresome claims about the evils of big government adapted from the empty rhetoric of their national counterparts.

That's not much of a choice for most North Carolinians, and their reaction to that realization has moved from apathy to anger, sending the political class scrambling for a way to respond.

Maybe all the polling and focus groups can come up with a slogan or a bumper sticker this year that can help one party hold a few seats in Congress or win a few more in the General Assembly.

But that's not an answer to the anger; it is at best a way to deflect it from what the Herald-Tribune columnist senses among many Americans as a feeling he describes as the "pardonable frustration of sensing that time is working against them."

Time, and political leaders in both parties who often seem more interested in using the public anxiety than addressing the real problems that created it.

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



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# Service puppies ready to graduate

BY ELIZABETH JENSEN  
Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

Ayla, a golden retriever, can open refrigerators, flip light switches, open and close doors, help take off clothing, pick up dropped objects and phone for help. She learned these skills at Eyes Ears Nose and Paws, a training center for assistance dogs in Carrboro.

Gretchen Aylsworth is Ayla's puppy parent. She's seen Ayla grow and learn a lot throughout the year. But training Ayla has changed her, too, she said.

"I didn't mean for my life to become [Eyes Ears Nose and Paws] completely, but it did," Aylsworth said.

Director Deb Cunningham jokingly reminded her she still has time for choir practice.

"There's a way I love this best of all," Aylsworth said. "It's a wonderful experience."

The first dogs will graduate this spring and be paired with their new masters in early summer. So far, the organization has received three applications from community members who want service dogs.

"We're looking for that point where they start to settle in and you know they're ready," Cunningham said. "It's a long time coming. It's been a lot of delayed gratification. At graduation, my spirits will probably soar."

The first group of puppies began training about a year ago. Five dogs are in the program, which

has grown to include three puppy parents and more than 20 volunteers. Small local grants and donations helped the organization get started. January 1 was the first time CEO Maria Ikenberry and Cunningham received paychecks since opening the program in 2008.

Cunningham said that Eyes Ears Nose and Paws evolved from her desire to develop helping relationships between humans and dogs. Her first dog, which went to college with her, was named J.B., for Jet Black. The dog would sneak into classroom buildings when people would open the doors, find Cunningham and lay at her feet.

"She was allowed everywhere but the library, computer center and dining hall," Cunningham said.

## Exploring new partnerships

Cunningham began training working dogs in 2001 with a dog named Finner, a black Lab from the pound whom she taught search and rescue skills. But she wanted to explore other partnerships between humans and dogs, so she attended Bergen University of Canine Studies in Santa Rosa, Calif. and received an associate degree in assistance dog training. Now helping run Eyes Ears Nose and Paws, she also trains diabetic-assistance dogs.

A diabetic-assistance dog can smell when its master's blood sugar goes above or below the normal

range. The dog is trained to nuzzle or paw its master to get attention. Sometimes blood-sugar levels drop dangerously low at night, Cunningham said. The dog will paw at its master until he or she awakes. If the master doesn't get up, the dog will find someone else in the house; and if no one else is there, the dog will push a button on a special phone to dial for help.

Alexia Peck recently started volunteering with the organization. She co-owns Darwin K9, an obedience school for pets, and trains Nero, a German shepherd, to find dead bodies and bite on command.

She said working with service dogs is very different from other kinds of training she's done. Walking is the biggest difference, because in other types of training the master pulls more on the leash and collar.

"It's like retraining my muscle memory," Peck said. "I'm used to telling the dog what to do, not showing."

Next month, Eyes Ears Nose and Paws will grow to include two or three more puppies. Cunningham said she hopes to begin training 17 dogs this year. It's an ambitious goal and is dependent on the number of people willing to become puppy parents.

To volunteer or get more information, visit the Eyes Ears Nose and Paws website at [cenp.org](http://cenp.org) and register for the mailing list or call 926-0457.



After a Thursday night training session, the trainers and their dogs lined up for a group picture. Front row: left to right, service dogs Bonnie, Little B, Ansel and Ayla. Second row: trainers Deb Cunningham, Alexia Peck, Carolyn and Lynn Ikenberry and Gretchen Aylsworth. Photo by Elizabeth Jensen

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**MARK TRAIL**

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, BUT WE SHOULD GIVE A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE IN HARM'S WAY SAFEGUARDING OUR WAY OF LIFE AND THAT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

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DID YOU KNOW THAT ABOUT 300 MILLION TURKEYS ARE RAISED IN THE UNITED STATES ANNUALLY...OVER 45 MILLION ARE EATEN AT THANKSGIVING AND 23 MILLION AT CHRISTMAS!

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AS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ONCE SAID, "IF ANYONE WERE TO ASK ME WHAT THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS, I WOULD SAY THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DOING A KIND THING FOR SOMEONE ELSE EACH DAY...IN NO OTHER WAY, I AM CONVINCED, CAN TRUE HAPPINESS BE OBTAINED"

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

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

**CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Dead or Alive?**

Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't go to yours!





PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Sweet gum balls congregate as mulch beneath the big tree in Coker Arboretum.

## FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

Taking a lesson from nature, it seems so logical to let the gum balls lie where they fall, creating a natural mulch. Think about the natural forest. Each tree drops leaves that become natural mulch, which eventually decomposes to become nutrients for the roots. The wise and resourceful Botanical Garden staff at The Coker Arboretum leave gum balls to serve as mulch beneath that magnificent tree in the central lawn.

Gardening friend Sally

Heiney related to me that gum-ball mulch has been the remedy for her "dog-lying-in-the-flower-border" problem. When she began mulching her flower beds with sweetgum balls, the dog stopped lying amongst the flowers. Similarly, I learned from my mother-in-law, Jane King, who maintains plants in pots at Carol Woods, that gum-ball mulch in pots discourages digging and uprooting of pesky squirrels.

So rather than curse the fallen sweetgum balls, enjoy taking a closer look at the architecture and beauty

of each one and keep them on site to serve a useful purpose. In fact, consider the flowers and fruit that fall from all our trees as a resource to keep on site and to recycle back to the earth, as is nature's way. Eliminate the energy wasted in collecting that fine natural "debris" and moving it curbside to create unnecessary work for town staff.

A good friend described the quiet sound of the raining down of sweetgum seed during a woods walk last fall. I'm going walking next fall in hope of capturing that experience myself.



Johnny gets his Eagle, 1963

My 15-year-old childhood chum, Johnny Allcott, backed by proud parents June and John Allcott Sr., poses for photos after receiving his Eagle rank at Troop 39's court of honor at the Institute of Pharmacy building on Church Street, Chapel Hill. A budding photo-geek, I made this terrible snapshot with my Kodak Flashmate and included fellow scouts, left to right, John Radford (and his parents), Bob Cadmus and Timmy Keith-Lucas. Though I haven't seen John Allcott in over 40 years, we still exchange Christmas cards faithfully every year. Married to the former Beth Hunt of Chapel Hill, he's a doctor in Eugene, Ore., where they've lived for decades. And I bet that in some closet he's still got his scout uniform with that coveted Eagle badge.

## A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER



Do you have an important old photo that you value? Send your 300 dpi scan to [jock@email.unc.edu](mailto: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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