

ACADEMIC INVESTIGATION

## New review will seek scandal's origin

**Former Gov. Jim Martin will lead an outside probe into irregular courses.**

By Nicole Comparato  
University Editor

Former Gov. Jim Martin said he will undertake a new review of the Department of African and Afro-

American Studies as a scientist would — he'll follow the evidence.

The University announced Thursday that Martin, 76, who was governor of North Carolina from 1985 to 1993, will lead an outside review of academic irregularities in the department.

But in the University's latest attempt to root out the origin of its academic scandal, Martin will focus on the time period before 2007,

back to when the impropriety began.

Martin, who will be assisted by the consulting firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLC, will begin the review in about a week and expects to finish in early to mid-October, he said in an interview.

"We'll be looking for evidence of proper reporting of class activities, looking at grade patterns, records of that kind and see where that takes us," Martin said.

Chancellor Holden Thorp said the review will not be limited to department.

A University report released in May detailed improper teaching practices occurring primarily in the department's summer courses between 2007 and 2009, laying responsibility on then-department chairman Julius Nyang'oro and administrator Deborah Crowder. "If they decide they need to go

further back in time, we'll provide them the resources they need to do that," Thorp said.

UNC-system President Thomas Ross, who was a student at Davidson College when Martin was a faculty member, said he is glad the University's focus is on bringing the "deplorable" scandal to an end.

"I think anyone who hasn't been

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## A BATTLE FOR THE TAR HEEL STATE?



By Erika Keil

Assistant State & National Editor

North Carolina has the potential to join the ranks of Ohio, New Hampshire and Florida as a permanently purple, battleground state, say several political observers and pundits in the state.

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama have been neck-and-neck for months in statewide polls.

Public Policy Polling, a left-leaning polling firm based in Raleigh, recently published a poll showing Obama leading Romney by 49 percent to 46 percent in the state, a virtual tie within the margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percent.

"We have polled North Carolina 22 times, and Obama and Romney have been within three points of each other 21 of those times," said Tom Jensen, director of the polling firm.

He added that permanent demographic changes in the state could cause this trend to continue far beyond the upcoming election.

*"Part of why Obama won is because the Republicans were caught sleeping."*

Mitch Kokai,  
political analyst for the John Locke Foundation

"The combination of young voters being so Democratic-leaning in North Carolina and so much of the population growth coming from more liberal states such as California, New York and New Jersey could make this long-term," Jensen said.

Obama narrowly won North Carolina by about 14,000 votes in 2008, but a sputtering economic recovery has prevented the president from gaining more of a foothold in the state. North Carolina's unemployment rate of 9.6 percent, tied for fifth-highest among states, ranks higher than the national rate of 8.3 percent.

The president's victory in the state,

which holds 15 electoral votes, was considered a surprise to the Obama campaign in 2008, said Mitch Kokai, political analyst for the right-leaning John Locke Foundation.

"(The campaign in) 2008 was the big campaign for hope and change, and in a lot of respects he was the unknown factor," Kokai said. "At this point, there is a three to four-year record, and the economic recovery is nothing much to speak of."

Republicans are also less likely to be caught off guard this time, Jensen said.

"Part of why Obama won is because the Republicans were caught sleeping, but that

is obviously not a problem this year," he said.

Brent Laurenz, executive director of the North Carolina Center for Voter Education, said Romney's events with running mate Paul Ryan earlier this month and Vice President Joe Biden's later visit to the state are a strong indication of how much both parties want to win North Carolina.

Kokai said Ryan could galvanize the conservative base in the state that hasn't been as enthusiastic about Romney.

"With Ryan, they say, 'Here is a guy that is a dynamic speaker, who is concerned with

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## J. Cole to headline Homecoming

**The rapper, a Fayetteville native, will perform for \$105,000 on Nov. 4.**

By Caroline Pate  
Staff Writer

Fayetteville native and hip-hop artist J. Cole is coming home.

The rapper was contracted by the Carolina Union Activities Board for \$105,000 to perform for Homecoming in Carmichael Arena

on Nov. 4 after being the top-voted artist by students on CUAB's whiteboard and email surveys last year.

Tom Low, CUAB's president, said an opening artist hasn't been chosen.

Lauren Sacks, assistant director for student learning and activities and CUAB's adviser, said that many other top-voted names like Dave Matthews Band, Jay-Z and Kanye West were out of CUAB's price range.

She said The Weeknd, and even The Beatles, were also suggested. One hundred fifty different artists were suggested in total, Sacks said.

Students could make suggestions during 10 days in April. CUAB members took pictures of the whiteboard three times a day and tallied the results.

"We didn't reach every single student on campus, but we were trying to get some sort of feedback," Sacks said.

Low said J. Cole's contract was about the highest CUAB was willing to pay, with help from the Carolina Athletic Association. The New Pornographers performed at last year's Homecoming for \$40,000.

Contact the desk editor at [arts@dailytarheel.com](mailto:arts@dailytarheel.com).

## Training camp ends for Tar Heels

**As UNC moves closer to the season, the start of classes changes things up.**

By Brandon Moree  
Sports Editor

The North Carolina football team has been ready for the first day of class for more than two weeks now.

Not necessarily because they're ready to crack the books again — but because it means the end of coach Larry Fedora's training camp.

"It's been fun, to tell you the truth," senior linebacker Kevin Reddick said. "Probably the hardest training camp I've had but it's probably been the most fun, too."

"Just being around my brothers for 15, 16 days straight — it's a good thing."

Fedora said training camp will end Monday, and the team will have Tuesday off. But by Wednesday, they'll be right back at it.

The start of classes will give the Tar Heels a brief reprieve from the rigorous tempo of the new offensive

## King at the center of Chapel Hill towing dispute

**Chapel Hill's ordinance on towing was permanently blocked on Aug. 2.**

By Chelsey Dulaney  
City Editor

In a small office on the outskirts of town, George King sits in front of two 60-inch computer screens and waits.

The right screen — divided into 14 smaller video feeds — shows the parking lots King's business, George's Towing & Recovery, tows.

"It's not to spy on somebody, it's to confirm what we're saying," King said. "I may lie and you may lie, but that video does not lie."

King calls this the "new age of towing," but many are calling it

something else — predatory.

The term has sparked heated debate in the town and prompted the Chapel Hill Town Council to revise its towing ordinance in February. Council members argued they needed to protect residents and visitors from aggressive towers.

But King says he's just doing his job, and the regulations hurt business.

"I'm not the bad guy. I'm just a guy doing a job," he said.

The ordinance was struck down by Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson on Aug. 2 after King challenged it in May, leaving the town void of a towing ordinance.

But the dispute between King and the council is still far from settled, and putting in place a new ordinance is now at the top of the council's priority list.

### Towing controversy

For King, it all started when his truck broke down in Chapel Hill more than a decade ago.

He called Talbert's Towing, and he said they immediately saw potential in him.

"Evidently they saw what I looked like, my size, and asked, 'Are you interested in doing towing?'" King said.

After a year at Talbert's, he started George's Towing.

"I get a hype (from towing)," he said. "I get an adrenaline rush."

Eleven years later, George's Towing handles some of the most frequented lots in downtown — including the Panera Bread lot and the 214 W. Franklin lot, where Noodles & Company is located. George's Towing also tows The Daily

Tar Heel building's parking lot.

On a sunny morning last week, King's lot was empty except for a handful of junk cars. Some days he tows as many as a dozen cars.

"Business is good — it fluctuates," he said.

But for the past several months, King has been at the center of Chapel Hill's towing discussion.

The town has loosely regulated towing for years, but it cracked down in 2008 after receiving complaints about unfair towing.

The ordinance capped towing fees at \$100 — \$80 less than King had been charging.

"That hurt me a tremendous amount," he said, adding that he adjusted by raising his fees for towing outside of downtown.

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