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Rock's Nest

Nikki Talley turns it up on evening crowd/ 16



Serving it up

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UNCW enrollment hits all time high

Administration trying to find ways to accomodate

TODD VOLKSTORF

STAFF WRITER

For the third consecutive year, the UNCW has ranked as one of the top 10 southern public universities according to *U.S. News and World Report*. UNCW ranked eight in the study and ranked 25 among all public and private universities in the south; an achievement which administrators say reflects the university's reputation. UNCW's student enrollment is at an all-time high with potential for further growth, leaving some students and administrators wondering how the university will be able to accommodate its growing population.

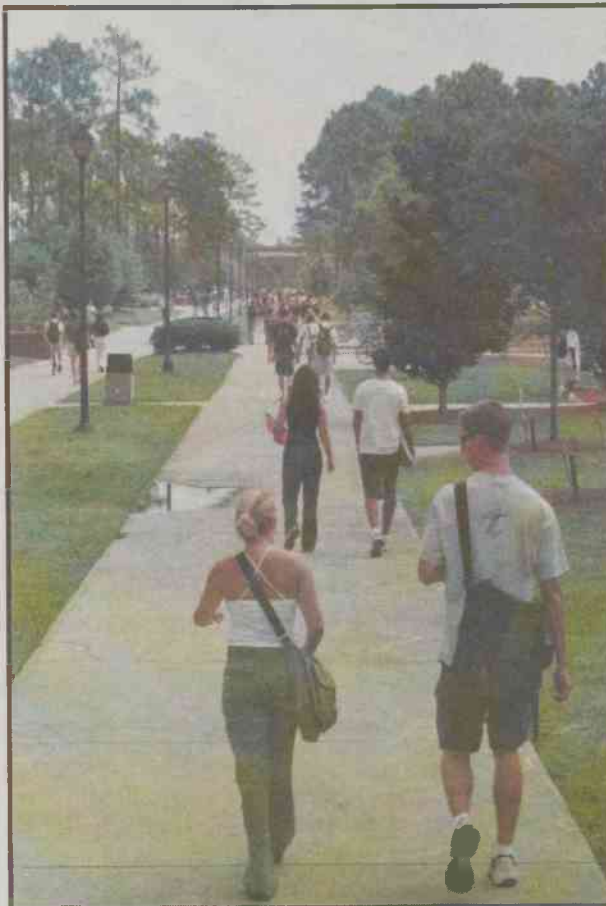
Associate Provost for Enrollment Affairs Dennis Carter has been at UNCW for 23 years and has seen the tremendous growth first hand.

"Throughout the 90's, we have been one of the two fastest growing (schools) in the UNC system. It has been between us and UNC Charlotte," Carter said.

Students choose to come to UNCW for various reasons. The most popular reason listed on the present freshmen survey, which is conducted by The Office of University Planning, Institutional Research & Facilities Management, was geologic location. Other reasons included the majors that UNCW offers and its size.

Molly Markham, a recreation major from North Carolina said she chose

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James Flinn/The Seahawk

Although UNCW has the largest campus in the state in terms of acreage, rapidly dwindling classroom space due to increasing enrollment is posing a hazard to the university's future growth. UNCW and UNC-Charlotte are the two fastest growing campuses in the state.

Colleges inform students of meningitis threat

SOMER STAHL

STAFF WRITER

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia released a report in July stating that universities need to make students aware of the threat of meningitis in college dormitories. While meningitis is a potentially fatal disease that has touched base on some college campuses throughout the United States, it has yet to affect the population of UNCW and school officials are working hard to keep it that way.

We need to inform all students that the best way to prevent disease is to wash your hands... frequently," said Dr. Albert Abrons, Medical Director of Student Health. He said that meningitis can be vi-

ral or bacterial. Viral meningitis is more common and less serious, as no antibiotics are needed.

"Bacterial meningitis has a mortality rate of 10 to 12 percent of those who get the disease. It (the chance of getting the disease) peaks in the first two years of a person's life and then again between the ages of 15 and 24. This is why it concerns college campuses. I'm pretty sure its three to six times more prevalent in freshman dorms, due to the fact that these people are living in close quarters," Abrons said.

He said that 10 percent of the general population carries the bacteria in their nose but do not get the disease, which is spread through saliva, sharing drinks, kissing, and other forms of contact. College officials are worried about a rise in the disease due

to the increase in "rave parties" and the use of the drug ecstasy. Abrons said that when some people take this drug they put pacifiers in their mouths to keep their teeth from clenching. As they pass the pacifiers to the next person, some people have passed the disease.

The CDC reported that the rate of meningitis in college dorms is 4.6 per 100,000 and in order for there to be a required, mandatory vaccination the rate must be 10 per 100,000. The center also reported that meningitis strikes 3,000 Americans per year and of that number, 300 die. Among college students, 100-125 cases per year are reported and this number re-

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