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UNCW beat UNCG two out of three games over the weekend/ 14

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Four new CAA teams to join conference

BEN JONES

SPORTS EDITOR

RICHMOND, Va. – UNC Wilmington will have four new conference opponents this fall.

Colonial Athletic Association Commissioner Thomas E. Yeager announced Wednesday that the University of Delaware, Drexel University, Hofstra University and Towson University will become CAA members effective July 1. The quartet will join George Mason University, James Madison University, the College of William and Mary, Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University and UNCW to form a 10-team conference.

"We are thrilled to be able to expedite the process and incorporate these schools sooner than originally announced," Yeager said. "The CAA is looking forward to their contributions, and we are excited about the future of the conference as this group moves forward."

Due to the timing of the transition, the four newcomers, who are all currently members of the America East



Conference, will remain as associate members. They will compete in the America East in the fall of 2001 in men's and women's soccer, field hockey and volleyball. Delaware and Hofstra will compete in CAA volleyball this fall.

Beginning with the winter sports, including the 2001-02 basketball season, the four schools will compete as full CAA members, playing full CAA schedules.

The new teams will have an immedi-

ate impact on several of UNCW's teams, including basketball. Mike Capaccio, administrative assistant for both the men's and women's programs, will be highly involved with scheduling the new opponents. He indicated the expansion is a positive step for all involved.

"I think it's great for the conference," Capaccio said.

One of Capaccio's duties will be to arrange transportation to the Seahawks' away games.

"I know the conference will take into consideration we are the southern-most university in the conference when putting the schedule together," he said. "Hopefully, they will combine some of our trips with multiple road games."

The expansion to the north means farther conference road trips for all athletic teams at UNCW, which means the travel expenses will rise extensively. Nevertheless, many see the future benefits outweighing the costs.

One of the advantages Capaccio appreciates is the higher level of competition in basketball.

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Death penalty moratorium advocated

DAN GUY

NEWS EDITOR

Dr. James Megivern, professor emeritus of philosophy and religion, lectured on "the Death Penalty in Christian History" to students and members of the community last Wednesday evening.

Megivern focused on the different attitudes toward capital punishment that Christianity has held during history. He also focused on the current role capital punishment plays in society and the problems associated with it.

"For the first two Christian eras (1st century thru 10th century), there still was this great reservation about the death penalty," Megivern said. "Then for the third and fourth periods (11th century thru mid-20th century), it was put on this pedestal. There were no limits on what it was applied to."

According to Megivern, the issue of capital punishment had not been addressed because Christians thought it

had always been applied. Since the issue has been confronted, the church has again changed its focus.

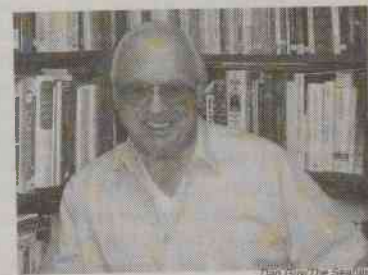
"What happened was an unfortunate contemporary perspective, and the one thing that you have to do about it is get rid of it, and go back to the earlier Christian restraint," Megivern said. "There is still a conflict going on in Christian theology. There are those who think it can be used in extreme cases, and those that say it can never be used."

According to Megivern, the main arguments against the death penalty are dignity and decency. He said that the real reason for executions is revenge.

"It [the lecture] was pretty informative as far as the history of the death penalty as how it relates to the Christian society in particular," said senior Collin Hubble. "It went from being banned to being re-instituted later on by one of the Popes."

Megivern said the death penalty is unfair because racial bias still exists in the capital punishment system. Studies

have shown that a defendant who kills a white person is four times more likely to be sentenced to death than one who kills a non-white.



Dr. James Megivern

"I think [Megivern] had a lot of things that made me realize this doesn't work," said Keri Lloyd, student. "The fact that the inequalities and injustices that the death penalty has, that it's a race issue, a class issue – that bugs me."

According to Megivern, 108 of 190

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