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UNCW tennis team is on the ball



the Seahawk

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RIAA regulates students, silences music

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The music industry's fight against illegal peer-to-peer music file trading has moved from the corporate world to the college campus.

Facing billions of dollars in lost revenue, the Recording Industry Association of America has begun to crackdown on one of the hotspots of e-piracy - the canals of academic computer networks.

On Oct. 3, 2002, the RIAA sent a letter to 2,300 American colleges and university presidents, strongly urging them to take action against illegal file sharing on their campuses.

On April 18, 2003, another letter from the RIAA to campus presidents said much progress had been made in stopping illegal activity. Still, the music industry watchdog said, more needed to be done. Lawsuits directly targeting



Andy Bader / the Seahawk

Freshmen Dave Buist listens to music while studying in Lakeside.

college students and large fines were their new weapons against

piracy.

"Too many students have

come to believe they are entitled to infringe as many copyrights as they can until they get caught, at which time they will simply be told to stop," read the April letter from RIAA president, Cary Sherman. "Our lawsuits are intended to make clear that this is not the case."

Although most students are aware that peer-to-peer file sharing is illegal, they are not necessarily keen on giving it up. A UNCW senior, who did not want to reveal her name, said

she downloads music all the time, knowing full-well it's illegal.

"I just don't see that much wrong with it," she said. "The radio's free, and anybody can record off the radio if they want."

The talk is quick; however, if faced with legal action, she admits she would give up downloading music.

That is exactly the reaction the RIAA is hoping to solicit.

Over the summer, several colleges and universities received subpoenas from the RIAA, requesting the institutions turn over names of file-swappers it wished to prosecute.

Boston College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology fought RIAA subpoenas on the grounds of privacy. Last month, their subpoenas were dismissed by a federal judge - but on a legal technicality, not a nod

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CLASS OF 2004 CHOOSES "SENIOR GIFT": MONEY FOR A FRESHMEN SCHOLARSHIP

KRISTEN HAWORTH

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This year no time is being wasted on finding help and money to get the 2004 Senior Gift Project off the ground.

Tiffany Moyer, fund-raising coordinator, is eager to find students willing to help make this year's gift more beneficial to the students. "We are looking for around 25 to 30 seniors to get

involved and become class agents," Moyer said.

Senior Naomi Debbaut thought students should have more say in what the gift will be. "A donation to financial aid," Debbaut said, is where she would rather see the money go.

Past gifts have included the clock tower and other structural objects that some feel did not focus on broad-based student par-

ticipation. This year both Moyer and Stephanie David, director of development, want to change the theme of the gift from structural to monetary — and use the money for scholarships.

"The main goal is to engage and excite this senior class 2004 in leaving their legacy at UNCW," Davis said. "By gathering an enthusiastic group of senior class fundraisers, we hope

they will leave a financial legacy enabling future freshmen students to afford the very UNCW education this senior class enjoyed."

The idea of a scholarship for upcoming freshmen seems to be a way to leave behind an actual "gift" that can stay around for many years. Several seniors have said that while the university focuses on structures, the students want to focus on scholarships.

David also mentioned the idea of a naming wall to honor and thank, among others, the class of 2004 and their fundraising accomplishments.

Altogether Moyer and David are looking for seniors to give a donation, choose a proper place for the money to be used and participate in the fundraising.

To become a senior class agent contact Stephanie at 962-2659.

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