

Serving UNC-Wilmington since 1948

January 6, 2005

Dixon's death ends Faulkner trial Apparent suicide under investigation by SBI

CARRIE VAN BRUNT NEWS EDITOR

Former UNCW student Curtis Dixon died December 9, 2004 from injuries sustained by an attempted suicide before standing trial for the murder of former UNCW student Jessica Faulkner.

Dixon apparently attempted suicide at the Polk Youth Institute where he broke away from guards and jumped head-first, falling three stories, from a staircase.

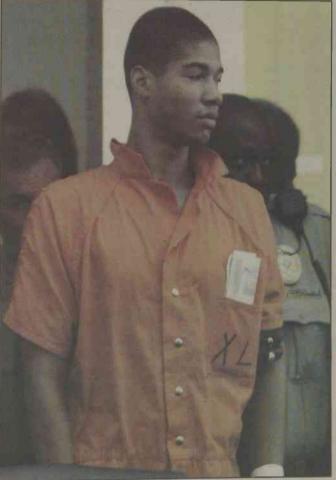
Dixon was in critical condition before he was removed from life support, and died shortly after.

Since Dixon's death. Chancellor DePaolo has released a statement regarding the details of the Jessica Faulkner case that were previously unavailable due to federal privacy

DePaolo explains how Dixon was admitted to UNCW despite inaccuracies in his application and

James Dixon, Curtis Dixon's father and Executive Assistant to the Chancellor at UNC Charlotte. faxed Dixon's transcripts to Special Assistant to former Chancellor Leutze, Mark Lanier.

All transcripts indicated that Curtis had been home schooled for



achieved a 1070 on his SAT's.

inaccuracies in these documents.

The only consolation I can bring from this catastrophe is to make UNCW better informed about issues such as stalking, potentially dangerous relationships, and campus safety. -Chancellor DePaolo

admissions documents.

his entire high school career and we obtained about the discrepancies in Curtis Dixon's admissions appli-Only after Faulkner's slaying did cation, I asked for a review of our authorities begin to discover the admissions procedures and decided to implement immediately an addi-After an investigation it become tional question designed to explain any gaps in an applicant's academic history." DePaolo explains.

She adds, "I also established two campus task forces to review education and safety at UNCW.

The campus task forces provide recommendations to help establish accuracy and honesty on all applicants' admissions documents by implementing information-checking and information-sharing between educational institutes

"The only consolation I can bring apparent that not only had Dixon from this catastrophe is to make not been home schooled for his UNCW better informed about issues entire high school career but he also such as stalking, potentially dangerattended the University of North ous relationships, and campus safety. Carolina at Charlotte and had been Not even the best background checks convicted of a misdemeanor larceny can entirely and utterly eliminate the all of which were falsified on his risk of a potentially dangerous student being enrolled. But becoming a Chancellor DePaolo has model for campus safety is what we addressed the problem about inac- must aim for, to bring good from the curacies in admissions applications. tragedy of young lives cut so tragi-"As a result of the information cally short", said DePaolo.

Former UNCW student Curtis Dixon enters the courtroom in chains. He attempted suicide on Dec. 7 rather than stand trial on the charge of murder. He was taken off life support Dec. 9.

April 2003 - James E. Dixon III contacts UNCW to ask if his son can still apply for admission. It will later be found that several parts of the application, including Curtis Dixon's prior criminal record, were

Fall 2003 Jessica Faulkner and Curtis Dixon meet. They lived on the same floor of Cornerstone Hall.

January 2004 Dixon changes his class schedule to attend four of his five classes with Faulkner. He also signs up for a university-sponsored trip to Belize with

Spring 2004 Faulkner talks about Dixon with her parents. She refers to him as "creepy" and "a stalker." She tells them that she would rather handle the situation by herself.

May 4 Faulkner, Dixon and mutual friends have a small going-away party in Dixon's room. Everyone but Dixon leaves the room by 11:00PM.

Dixon contacts Faulkner via instant message and invites her back to his room, supposedly to give her a present.

see TIMELINE page 2

Men's basketball faces-off against NC Tarheels,

Faulkner.

CONTACT US Editorial: 962-3229 Ads: 962-3789

www.theseahawk.org

