



the Seahawk



Volume LVI, Number 24

Serving UNC-Wilmington since 1948

April 7, 2005

Azalea Festival in full bloom

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CORRESPONDENT

Spring is upon us and spirits are up for the kickoff of the riverside community's 58th annual North Carolina Azalea Festival. The festival will be held April 6-10, with activities to spark the minds of people of all ages.

The festival's major focus is to showcase Wilmington's excellent past and blossoming future. This year the festival will not only highlight local artwork, gardens, rich history and culture, but will also include a parade, street fair, circus, and two concerts from popular music stars.

Teresa Mc Lamb, the Official Party Coordinator, reminds us that "The Azalea Festival is a very important part of our community's heritage and economy." The festival office reports a projected five million dollars in commerce from this year's festival.

Since its establishment in 1948, the Wilmington community has been proud to use the Azalea Festival as a springboard for the local economy. The festival attracts more than 300,000 people and continues to meet the organization's mission by being a nationally recognized "showcase for our community's distinctive heritage through recreation, educational and family oriented events."

The festival is largely run by volunteerism and relies heavily on over 100 volunteer committees to plan and execute events such as the Street Fair, the Pre-Festival Party, the Parade, and the community clean-up called Azalea Pride. These volunteer groups also

see **FESTIVAL** page 3

UNCW Students reprimanded for "SHARING"



Photo illustration by JuliaPol Isaac, Andy Bader and Lisa Moyer | THE SEAHAWK

A group of students in Suite O have had their internet shut off by the university for illegally downloading music. UNCW is responsible for all information passing through its server and can be sued for illegal downloads.

HOLLAN PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

Last week several UNCW students living on-campus had their internet service disconnected for illegally sharing music files over the internet. As the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has begun cracking down on file-sharing the number of complaints UNCW has received in the past year has increased significantly.

Jennifer Allen, who lives in the on-campus suites, was one of the students who were reprimanded for

sharing files.

"I was given a warning and had to remove the program and the files from my computer," said Allen.

There is no follow-up inspection to ensure the deletion of all necessary files from the computer, but as of yet no student has violated the policy twice. If such an infraction were to occur the student would face judicial action by the university.

According to Jennie Royal, Assistant Dean of Students, the purpose of meeting with students is to inform them that what they

are doing is in fact illegal and to protect the legal interests of both the student and the university. However, the meeting itself does not absolve either from legal action.

The students who were reprimanded for file sharing range from those who thought that they were outsmarting the system, to those who did not know that sharing music files was illegal. Most were surprised to find out that they were not only in trouble for downloading, but for allowing their own files to be downloaded by others.

Letters of notification sent to

UNCW by the RIAA identify the user, the file downloaded, the time it occurred and the IP address. The letter also recommends that students review the website www.musicunited.org, which contains detailed and comprehensive information about copyright law.

"We would strongly encourage students to review the website to make themselves more aware of the law and to avoid legal and/or university judicial action," said Royal.

Regardless of the law many students will continue to illegally download music off the internet.

In efforts to curb this practice on campus, as well as recognizing the educational value of such access, several universities within the UNC system are experimenting with different providers to enable students to download music legally. UNCW has partnered with Cdigix.

"As of now, for the rest of the semester students living in the residence halls can download music for free through Cdigix," said Sean Ahlum, Administrative Assistant of Housing and Residence Life.

According to Ahlum, there has been a very positive response from students living in the residence halls who have registered through Cdigix.

CORRECTION

Students in need of Plan-B emergency contraception are not required to attend a seminar before receiving the pill from the Student Health Center, as the pill must be taken within 72 hours. *The Seahawk* regrets the error.



Chapel Hill comes out on top, page 14

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Wakeboarding welcomes in the spring, page 8