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the Seahawk



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University purchases off-campus parking lot, parking fees to rise

BEN WIMMER
NEWS EDITOR

Last month, UNCW Corporation bought the former Cinema 6 movie theater at 5335 Oleander Drive for \$2.5 million. According to the university, the lot is expected to bring about 337 new spaces of student parking to UNCW.

The university does not expect the lot to be open for use until the fall 2006 semester. UNCW already owns and operates a 321-space parking lot across College Road opposite the university which also used to be a movie theater.

The new parking lot will transport students to and from campus using the same type of shuttle service as the current College Road parking lot. The purchase comes after UNCW announced that it would be building a 600-space, \$12 million parking deck, which was later canceled because of cost.

In a report published in The Seahawk last October, it was estimated that students would have had to pay \$120 more per year for parking passes if the proposed parking deck were to have been constructed.

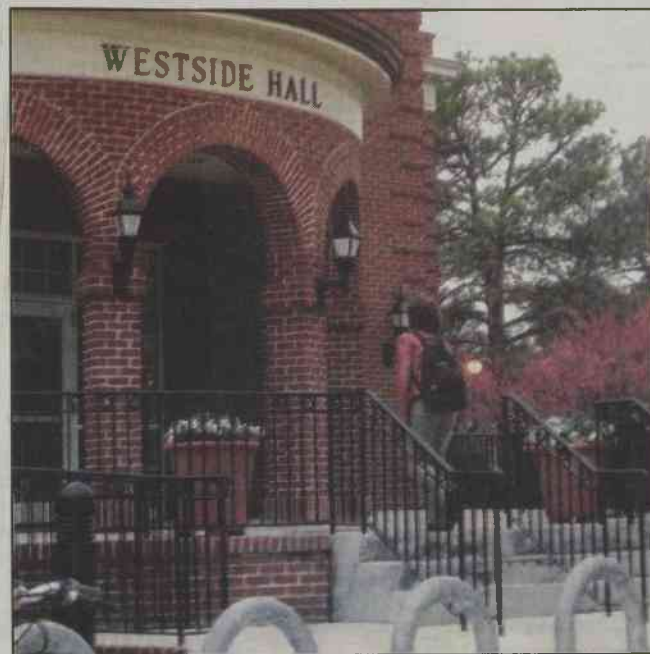
According to a report published in the Star-News, student parking fees are expected to go up in the 2006 fall semester from \$172 to \$218 for on-campus parking and from \$130 to \$174 for off-campus parking. The university is also considering purchasing another off-campus parking lot at



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Free STD testing included in \$20,000 grant to Student Health Center



The Student Health Center, housed in Westside Hall, recently received a \$20,000 grant which allows for the center to provide free testing for HIV and Chlamydia.

HOLLAN PETERSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Last October, the Student Health Center received a \$20,000 grant from the Cape Fear Memorial Foundation, which has enabled them to offer free HIV and chlamydia screening for students since Jan. 1.

"We are really looking to highlight the testing for asymptomatic individuals, and these two tests, the urine chlamydia test and the blood HIV test, we feel are the two most important tests for people who don't have symptoms," Medical Director Dr. Peter Meyer said.

HIV and chlamydia can remain asymptomatic for years leading to chronic pelvic pain, infertility and death. Chlamydia is the most prevalent Sexually Transmitted Disease reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 1994.

Although 15-24 year-olds constitute 25 percent of the sexually active

population, recent estimates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest the age group contracts 50 percent of reported STDs.

According to the CDC, "The higher prevalence of STDs among adolescents also

reflects multiple barriers to quality STD prevention services, including lack of insurance or other ability to pay, lack of transportation, discomfort with facilities and services designed for adults and concerns about confidentiality."

This grant is the latest in what has been nearly three years of efforts on the part of the Student Health Center to improve its official capacities in various areas of sexual health services. However, it is the first grant requested for outside funds to help student care, according to Adult Nurse Practitioner, Mary Canel.

"It's kind of a new focus for our department to try to do a little more outreach in that area," said Canel.

Meyer and Canel were the two involved in the painstaking process of securing the grant for UNCW's Student Health Center, which they hope will continue to increase student utilization of the center's STD testing services.

In March of 2004, the SHC received a grant of \$1,450 from Friends of UNCW, a volunteer organization, to launch an HIV testing program after lack of funding prevented the Health Department from coming to UNCW for student screenings.

Another grant from Friends of UNCW in 2005 enabled the SHC to switch their method of chlamydia testing and to lower the costs incurred by students. According to Canel, the SHC has "seen a great increase in males seeking testing. We used to do a probe that had to be inserted in the urethra for males—and so what was happening was that males were sending their female partners in

"It's kind of a new focus for our department to try to do a little more outreach in [sexual health]."

—Adult Nurse Practitioner Mary Canel



for testing [instead of getting tested themselves]," she said.

In addition to financial barriers, concerns about confidentiality and the need for strict adherence to a plethora of state and federal regulations interfered with the SHC's desire to offer students on-campus testing services.

Although all positive results for STDs including syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV must be reported to the Health Department, the SHC has made student privacy and con-

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Right to free speech at UNCW called into question

AMANDA HUTCHESON
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According to a report published Jan. 10, UNCW poses a serious risk to its students' free speech. The Pope Foundation and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education sponsored the study, which said the wording of policies at UNCW are too vague, and therefore unconstitutional.

The report criticized all the public universities in the North Carolina system except Elizabeth City State University.

The report objected to phrasing in UNCW's policy that prohibits "behavior of a biased or prejudiced nature related to one's personal characteristics..."

The report asserted the phrasing was unconstitutionally broad and did not clarify between harassing actions and actions that are considered forms of expression. It did say the current phrasing was an improvement over how the policy previously read, which included the words "speech or behavior."

FIRE's Web site gave UNCW a "red light" rating, given to the highest possible threat to students' First Amendment rights. On the Web site, FIRE also objected to an incident in 2001, where a professor's e-mail account was opened and read after a student complained.

Samantha Harris, the program officer at FIRE, said in an e-mail interview, "FIRE has not handled any additional cases at UNC Wilmington since the 2001 case." She added, "FIRE's ratings (red light, yellow light, green light) are based solely on whether a university maintains written policies that infringe upon constitutionally protected speech. The ratings are not affected by specific incidents at a

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