

V O T E T O D A Y

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Deposition: ticket topic of improper discussions

BY SHARIF DURHAMS
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Evidence collected last week seems to support University Police Lt. C.E. Swain's claim that his superiors tried to fix a ticket that he issued.

Deposition statements from two administrators indicate that several conversations about how to handle a ticket Swain wrote took place among University administrators, including the Board of Trustees member whose daughter received the ticket.

Maj. Jeff McCracken, who runs the University Police on a day-to-day basis,

said in his deposition that Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd planned to tell BOT chairman Billy Armfield that after debate, the University would process a ticket against his daughter.

Armfield and University administrators have said for months that no negotiation had gone on between them while police officials decided whether to process the ticket. "I don't have any knowledge of those comments, and I think I've said all I'm going to say about the Swain issue," Armfield said.

Floyd, who called from a business trip in San Francisco on Monday, said he did not even know Swain's attorney

Alan McSurely was taking depositions in the case. "I don't know anything about that," Floyd said when he was asked about talking to Armfield.

Swain gave the ticket for underage drinking to Armfield's daughter Sept. 27, but University Police officials and University administrators held the ticket for almost a week.

McCracken confirmed Monday that he made the statement, but he said University policy prevented him from explaining the statement or talking about any other discussions.

McSurely would not talk about details of McCracken's testimony.

But he said the depositions from McCracken and Vice Chancellor for Auxiliary Services Carolyn Elfland, who oversees University Police, would aid Swain's case. "We have a much better understanding of what trustee Billy Armfield's role was in the complaint," McSurely said from his office.

McSurely plans to introduce the depositions into Swain's lawsuit against the University later this week after another day of deposing Elfland.

Swain sued the University in November, alleging that McCracken, Elfland and others tried to obstruct justice by getting rid of the ticket he wrote

to Armfield's daughter, freshman Caroline Hancock.

Swain's suit also claims he was fired for talking to the press about his grievance case against the University.

Officially, Swain was fired for falsifying his timesheet by spending two hours in the offices of The Chapel Hill News. Chancellor Michael Hooker put Swain back on the job in December.

Written statements McSurely received last week explain more of the debate that occurred before the ticket was given to a magistrate.

A time line submitted to McSurely by McCracken states that McCracken told

Elfland and Floyd at the same meeting that Swain's ticket would not hold up in court because Swain did not have probable cause for issuing the ticket. The three decided there to let Swain choose to pursue charges against Hancock.

McCracken told Swain he would have to make the sole decision whether to file the ticket, the time line states.

Swain has said for months that they suspected Armfield tried to use his influence to get rid of the ticket.

Any intervention from administrators would have compromised the trust between officers and their superiors, McSurely said in an earlier interview.

Renovation project in students' hands

BY ERICA BESHEARS
EDITOR

A 24-hour copy center, computer labs, 35,278 extra square feet of space and 53 more offices for student organization.

All this and more could belong to UNC students — for up to \$30 a semester per student for 20 years.

Students have the opportunity today to vote for a student fee increase to fund the \$13 million renovation and expansion of the Student Union.

The Board of Trustees has given preliminary approval to the building plans, and Student Congress placed the referendum on the ballot. If the referendum passes, and the University and UNC system approve the project, construction will start in fall 1999.

If students approve the referendum, they would endorse a fee increase that would affect 20 years of UNC students.

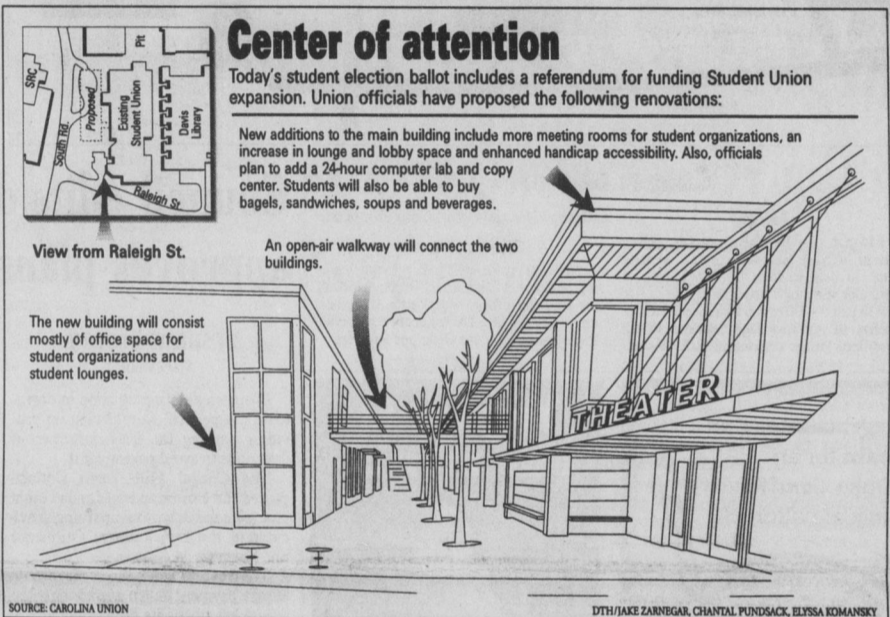
Currently, students pay \$2 a semester in fees for the Union. The referendum would increase by \$8 per semester in 1999-2000, when construction begins.

In 2000-01, fees will increase up to \$21.09 per semester for 20 years. That means students could pay up to \$31.09 per semester. Summer school students would not pay an increased fee.

Student Body Treasurer Marc McCollum said the fee increase was staggered so the Union could repay the money as soon as possible. At the same time, the students who bear the brunt of the cost will enjoy the benefits of the renovated Union.

The Union Board of Directors began exploring the need for an expanded Union in 1992, attending conferences and holding forums and focus groups to determine how students use the Union.

Union Director Don Luse said the plans came directly from students' needs. "When we look at needs, we can see that every year the number of student organizations increases," he said. "We can see how poorly we are doing helping student organizations with office space."



Center of attention

Today's student election ballot includes a referendum for funding Student Union expansion. Union officials have proposed the following renovations:

New additions to the main building include more meeting rooms for student organizations, an increase in lounge and lobby space and enhanced handicap accessibility. Also, officials plan to add a 24-hour computer lab and copy center. Students will also be able to buy bagels, sandwiches, soups and beverages.

View from Raleigh St.

An open-air walkway will connect the two buildings.

The new building will consist mostly of office space for student organizations and student lounges.

SOURCE: CAROLINA UNION

DTH/JAKE ZARNIGAR, CHANTAL PUNDACK, ELYSSA KOMANSKY

Carolina Union President Amy Lawler said the plan's highlights responded to the campus' needs: The Union will never be entirely closed during construction, and the project will sacrifice only one parking spot.

In recent months, however, the Union

Board of Directors has turned attention to making sure the referendum passes. A \$3,000 publicity campaign has spotlighted the project and detailed the history of the Union's funding.

The Union opened in 1969 after students protested and raised the money

themselves. A 1981 expansion project was also funded by fees.

Lawler said she wanted to raise awareness of the Union's role on campus, an effort that would not be wasted

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SBP's tenure full of tough, smooth times

■ Student Body President Mo Nathan has one more platform goal to reach.

BY JESSICA GALAZKA
STAFF WRITER

For Student Body President Mo Nathan, his tenure has often been as frustrating as banging his head against a wall. But at other times, it's been smooth sailing.

Nathan's term has included several accomplishments that have left his platform one goal short of fulfilled.

Throughout the year, Nathan has tackled issues from a tuition increase to advising reform to a conflict between student groups.

Along the way there were cheers of celebration and grunts of frustration. And despite a long list of accomplishments, some students felt Nathan too often "straddled the fence" on important issues.

Troubled times

Only a month into office, Nathan's administration faced its first major hurdle — and stumbled.

The N.C. General Assembly proposed a tuition increase for students at UNC and N.C. State University. The increase was under discussion at a most inopportune time for students — while

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Student Body President MO NATHAN was criticized for "straddling the fence" on some issues.

Higher learning

BY MELANIE FLOYD
STAFF WRITER

Three years ago Elson Floyd felt like he had arrived back home.

The current executive vice chancellor first stepped on the UNC campus as a bright-eyed freshman in 1974. He eventually received his bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees from UNC.

After working for the University for more than 13 years in various administrative positions such as assistant dean of student affairs and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the General College, Floyd proceeded to Washington to continue his career in higher education.

Three years ago Chancellor Michael Hooker recruited Floyd, who later became executive vice chancellor. Floyd, the chief administrative and operating officer at the University, oversees business and finance, human resources, auxiliary enterprises, student affairs, information technology, University advancement and development and enrollment management.

"This campus is in many respects a fundamental part of who I am and what I do," Floyd said. "This is home. It's great to work for my alma mater."

Even as an undergraduate Floyd was very involved in student government and served as Student Attorney General. Although he originally planned to go to law school, economic decisions and his love for education and people led him higher up the education career ladder.

"I grew up in a very poor environment," Floyd explained. "I understand the importance of connecting with people. It is an important part of who I am."

Floyd grew up in Henderson with three brothers and attended boarding school in Rome, Ga., before returning to North Carolina for college. "Neither of my parents graduated high school. They made it abundantly clear that education was going to be a part of our future," he said.

Black History Month
Surviving the Struggle
A monthlong series spotlighting the achievements of contemporary black leaders.



Elson Floyd, executive vice chancellor, grew up in Henderson and is an alumnus of UNC.

Growing up in a time of extreme racism, Floyd faced many struggles in his pursuit of a better life. He recalls having to attend a segregated school until he was in the eighth grade. "Even in a facility as simple as a movie theater, you couldn't co-mingle," Floyd said.

Although society has come a long way in tackling racial issues, Floyd said he believes race still has an effect in the way people view each other.

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Police say safety options plenty for staff, students

BY KELLI BOUTIN
STAFF WRITER

In light of Friday morning's assault on a female University employee, campus officials want to increase awareness of safety procedures.

They also stress the fact that both students and employees can take measures to protect themselves from violence and crime on campus.

University Police Lt. Angela Carmon, crime prevention officer, performs security surveys of various buildings on campus in addition to giving safety information and tips to University students and employees.

She evaluates features such as lighting, shrubbery and locks, and makes suggestions as to what further safety measures should be implemented.

Employee safety is a focal point for Carmon. She suggested that housekeepers carry walkie-talkies so they can contact each other, especially during late night and early morning hours.

She also suggested that Davis Library install an intercom system that would ensure easy contact with the front desk in the event of an emergency in the library.

"I think that most people get a false sense of security when they're here on campus," Carmon said. "We're not immune to crime."

Another way University students and employees can better prepare themselves for the possibility of an attack is by taking a self-defense class, she said.

The Rape Aggression Defense program, is offered by the Department of Public Safety to instruct females in basic self defense, University Police Maj. Jeff McCracken said.

McCracken said he encouraged both

employees and students to familiarize themselves with locations of emergency call boxes and suggested using the lighted corridor running from Franklin Street to South Campus at night.

The Chancellor's Safety and Security Committee, in conjunction with Campus Police, the Physical Plant and student government, conducts regular lighting tours of the campus to determine what improvements need to be made, he said.

Carmon said people should use services such as Point-2-Point shuttles and SAFE Escort. She said some do not utilize these services because they do not want to take the time to wait for them.

"Point-2-Point and Safe Escort are a matter of safety, not convenience," Carmon said, adding that people should use the buddy system when they know they are going to be out late. "Always let someone know where you're going and when you're going to return," she said.

After an incident like Friday's attack, safety becomes a priority for University Police, McCracken said. Patrols have been increased in the Park Place parking lot, the scene of the attack, and in other parking lots on campus.

The Emergency Notification Committee, a subcommittee of the Chancellor's Safety and Security Committee, convened after the assault to inform the University community about the attack, said Susan Ehringhaus, University legal counsel.

The committee informed the media, sent e-mail messages, talked to human resource facilitators and contacted residence hall staff and apartment managers about the incident. Committee members also posted signs giving information about the assault and listing safety tips.

Violence is, essentially, a confession of ultimate inarticulateness.

Time Magazine