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University alters airport operation policy

■ Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf praised UNC's response to a crash.

BY MICHAEL KANAREK
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

In response to the Feb. 25 crash at Horace Williams Airport, University officials have decided to staff the airport later and to close the airport to most aircraft during late-night and early morning hours.

Airport staffers will now work at the airport office from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and

will close the airport between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to transient aircraft, except those flying on business related to the University or UNC Hospitals.

According to a press release, Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd announced the changes after his pledge to review airport procedures following the crash of a single-engine Cessna 195 at the airport.

"Safety at Horace Williams remains the number one concern of the University, as it always has been," Floyd stated in the release.

The changes will be implemented as soon as possible, the release stated. Jonathan Howes, special assistant to

the chancellor, said the staffing change came about because the airport had always been open until 9 p.m., but it had been unstaffed from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

According to airport records, there are an average of about 15 takeoffs per week during those hours.

"I think it would have expedited the response from the emergency forces had there been somebody there," Howes said.

The Feb. 25 crash happened about 8 p.m. when nobody was working at the airport.

Neighbors alerted authorities about the crash after reportedly hearing cries of help from the airport.

But now that the dust surrounding the crash has apparently settled, some officials are praising the University's response.

Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said she thought the University administration was listening to the community's concerns.

"I'm just very pleased that they've made these two policy changes," she said.

"It's a high level of responsiveness from the University, and I appreciate it."

Howes, who focuses on town-gown relations, said he had called Waldorf to tell her what was going on and was pleased with her reaction.

"We're pleased that we were able to do this," he said.

Last fall, the University decided to create an airport advisory board, which will be composed of members of local governmental bodies, area residents and UNC officials.

Howes said the committee was almost ready to begin work since the final nominees had been submitted. The process now hinges on Chancellor Michael Hooker's signing the letters of appointment.

Floyd, Vice Chancellor for Auxiliary Services Carolyn Elfland and Airport Manager Paul Burke could not be reached for comment.

Compromise to evaluate student loans

■ The Committee on Education and the Work Force will vote Wednesday.

BY HEATHER MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

A congressional compromise could make students who receive loans and the banks who supply the money happy.

A reauthorization bill, which will extend the Higher Education Act for another five years, is expected to change the formula used in determining the interest rates that become effective July 1. While the original formula dropped interest rates from 8.23 percent to 7.3 percent, a new proposal addressed the need for financial support from banks.

The new interest-rate formula for student loans, which will be voted on in committee Wednesday, maintains the interest-rate level at 7.43 percent. The proposed compromise reduces rates for students while still trying to appease private banks. The debate stemmed from the fact that some legislators feared banks would not receive enough profits and would pull their support for student loans entirely.

David Foy, press secretary for U.S. Rep. Howard P. McKeon, R-Calif., said the interest-rates compromise was necessary.

"Under the law that was passed in 1993 the interest rate had to change," he said. "It wouldn't be profitable for the banks and they'd get out of loans; the rate was so low the banks wouldn't accept it."

Jay Diskey, director of communication for the Committee on Education and the Work Force, said the bill attempted to save the loan program.

McKeon and Rep. Dale Kildee, D-Mich., were the representatives who proposed the compromise. Diskey agreed that the proposal would save the loan program while helping students.

"We will subsidize the banks in order to keep them in the program," he said. "(Students) will get the lowest interest rate in 17 years."

Stuart Bethune, associate director of the UNC scholarship and student aid office, said any size interest-rate reduction would be welcomed. "Any reduction in interest rates on Stafford Loans would be of benefit to our students," he said.

Student Body President Mo Nathan said although the change in interest rates appeared small, it made a significant difference with large amounts of student aid. "It's a big help for students," he said. "Our student government is being more supportive of student aid."

Foy said the Committee on Education and the Work Force would meet Wednesday to discuss and vote on the proposal. If it passes, the committee will send it to the U.S. House of Representatives for a full vote.

SHS might get full-time gynecologist

■ Students have asked for a full-time gynecologist at Student Health Service.

BY CHRIS HOSTETLER
STAFF WRITER

Representatives of the University administration, students and Student Health Service are reviewing recommendations for UNC to hire a full-time gynecologist to provide services at SHS.

But some involved are debating the need to have one at all.

Director of Student Health Service Judith Cowan said SHS hoped to have a gynecologist in place before the beginning of the fall 1998 school year.

"We are interested in providing services without cutting back services," Cowan said.

SHS is primarily looking at making a deal with the School of Medicine which would provide a paid intern gynecologist, Cowan said.

But Student Services Committee Chairwoman Emily Williamson said there was still some disagreement in student government about the need for a full-time gynecologist.

Several students, including members of the Women's Issues Network, have asked for one. "Everybody thinks something needs to be done, but there is some disagreement on what needs to be done," Williamson said.

Student Body President Mo Nathan decided earlier this year to start a dialogue between the administration, SHS and student representatives to determine the best way to serve women's health needs on campus after a task force issued a report in 1996 about women's status on campus.

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Katherine Kraft said she disagreed with the report's suggestion of adding a full-time gynecologist because SHS would have to drop other services in order to fund the professional.

Kraft also said all basic services needed by women before pregnancy were already provided on campus.

"The issue has become one of politics, not of women's health care," she said. "It disturbs me enormously that a matter as important as women's health would be degenerated into a political matter."

Kraft said she thought SHS was going to provide a director of women's health studies who would answer questions and provide a contact point for women who needed more help than SHS provided.

Cowan said that when SHS decided what to do about adding a gynecologist, they would allow student representatives to review its suggestions. "(SHS's proposal) will be presented to the Student Health Advisory Board, and WIN and members of student government will have the chance to approve it," she said.

Williamson said she believed most of the women's complaints with SHS had to do with women not being able to see their assigned doctor every day. She said it was a problem because women were not provided with the services they needed in case of an emergency.

Cowan said she wanted to emphasize that no decision has been made yet and that SHS would have more information available later in the semester.



David Beyer (left) waits for his case on Monday. Several UNC football players, including Ricco McCain (front right), are charged with assaulting him.

Assault charges stand against UNC athletes

■ A judge will rule Thursday on a second motion to dismiss charges.

BY STEVE MRAZ
SENIOR WRITER

A group of University football players might have to stand trial on charges of assaulting a UNC freshman after a judge Monday quashed a motion to dismiss their charges.

Chapel Hill District Judge Lonnie Coleman ruled that assault charges against six University football players would not be dismissed.

"I am satisfied that heresy can be used before a magistrate in issuing a warrant," he said.

On Dec. 5, a fight erupted outside of Gotham, a Rosemary Street night club, shortly after the establishment closed at 2 a.m. Reserve defensive tackle Ricco McCain, 22, allegedly punched 18-year-old freshman David Beyer. Beyer said he was then knocked to the ground and hit several times by people whom he could not identify. He suffered a broken cheekbone and bruised ribs.

McCain was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. Days later, after Beyer appeared before three different magistrates, football players Varian Ballard, Greg Harris, Kivusama Mays, Stephon McQueen, Greg Williams and Robert Williams were each charged with simple assault.

Six attorneys, representing all the

players except McCain, said Orange County Magistrate John Stokes did not have the proper grounds to issue criminal summonses against their clients.

McCain was not included in Monday's proceedings because his charge was more severe. Beyer said under oath to Stokes that he saw McCain punch him.

In a December interview, McCain told The Daily Tar Heel he punched Beyer twice, but only in self-defense.

Steven Bernholz, lead counsel for the players, cited N.C. statutes that stated a magistrate must be supplied with an affidavit, oral testimony under oath from a witness or oral testimony from a witness received by a law enforcement official before he can issue a criminal summons.

Beyer only gave three notarized letters of accounts from eyewitnesses to Stokes before Stokes issued the summonses.

Although Coleman ruled that the letters were not affidavits, he did not dismiss the charges.

Arthur Yancey, Orange County assistant district attorney, said Beyer was not aware that he needed affidavits or the witnesses to appear before the magistrate to have the summonses issued.

Yancey said the magistrate told Beyer only to bring the written statements of the eyewitnesses to him.

The trial against the seven players will begin April 27 if Coleman rules Thursday against another motion to dismiss the charges.

Both Beyer and Mays declined comment.

Land-mine victim says governments must help

■ Abraham Gebreyesus described his experience with land-mine injuries.

BY LAURA STOEHR
STAFF WRITER

An 11-year-old boy growing up in Eritrea, a small African country near Ethiopia, played in his village and explored it as most kids do.

One day while he was playing, he found a small battery-like object.

In one instant, Abraham Gebreyesus lost his right arm and was left blind in both eyes because of a land mine.

"I struck it with my hand, and it exploded in my face," he said.

Wearing tinted glasses and a prosthetic arm — daily reminders of his accident — Gebreyesus, now 27, recounted his experience to an audience of about 70 during a speech at UNC on Monday.

"The victims are children," he said. "They just play and they find out (about land mines)."

Gebreyesus, a fifth-year law student at the University of Asmara in Eritrea and one of four recipients of the Reebok Human Rights Award, said governments need to provide for the social and economic rehabilitation of land-mine victims.

"Most of the survivors are disabled — have lost their legs, arms or eyes,"

"Unless these survivors can be improved with educational rehabilitation, they will just remain as beggars ..."

ABRAHAM GEBREYESUS
Reebok Human Rights Award winner

Gebreyesus said.

"I may work (after graduation) in order to change the policies of the governments to make legislation on people with disabilities."

He said victims often fought alone to re-enter society but that there were several ways to assist them.

Victims' medical treatment was one of the prime areas needing improvement, he said.

Medical treatment includes the initial help after a victim is struck by the mine, but it also includes providing victims with quality artificial arms and legs, Gebreyesus said.

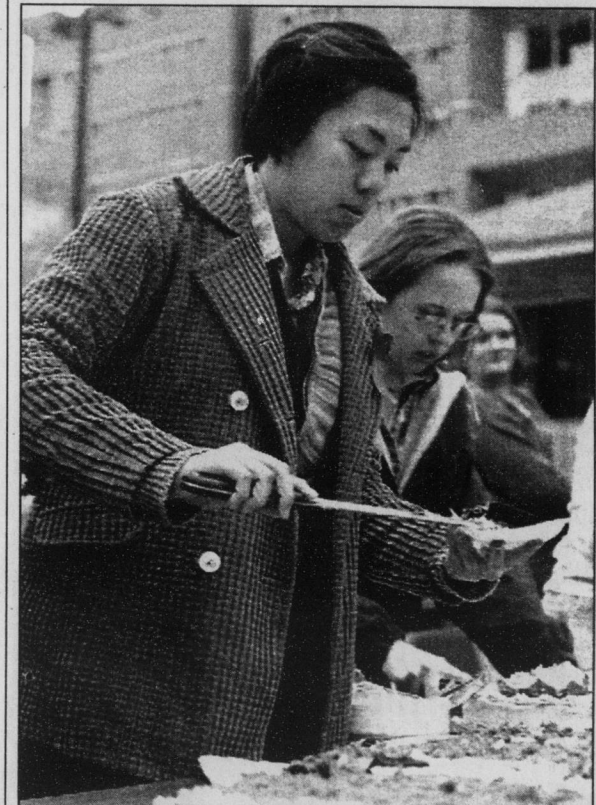
"If they can get better treatment, they can have a better life," he said.

Gebreyesus said treatment could be improved by the governments of countries with land-mine victims or by forging links to other governments to improve treatment.

Once victims are treated, he said,

SEE SPEAKER, PAGE 5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Tina Yuen, of the Women's Issues Network, slices birthday cake in the Pit on Monday as part of this year's Women's Week.

There are only two forces that unite men — fear and interest.
Napoleon Bonaparte