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Student in hospital with deadly meningitis

■ The disease is contagious and can be passed on through oral secretions.

BY NAHAL TOOSI
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Junior Karen Ellis is listed in fair condition at UNC Hospitals after contract-

ing a deadly, contagious form of acute meningococcal meningitis, which inflames tissues surrounding the brain and the spinal cord.

University and hospital officials are urging members of Ellis' sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, to seek preventive treatment from Student Health Service.

SHS director Judith Cowan said administrators would notify on Monday Ellis' classmates and others she might

have physically contacted.

Ellis, a 20-year-old political science major from Winston-Salem, was admitted to the hospital Saturday. "I know she was really sick, but I'm not sure exactly what condition she was in," said Cheryl Hunt, Alpha Chi Omega president.

About 65 students have been treated, including most of the students who live with Ellis in the Alpha Chi Omega house, Cowan said. People who attend

two functions the sorority hosted this weekend will probably be warned also.

University and hospital officials have declined to release Ellis' name, citing patient confidentiality laws and provisions under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. However, Ellis' sister confirmed her status.

"She's gotten a lot better," 17-year-old Kimberly Ellis said Sunday. "She's not as bad off as she was before."

Cowan said the case did not constitute an outbreak and that only people who had come into fairly direct contact with Ellis had a significant possibility of contracting the disease. Oral secretions, such as saliva exchange through kissing or sharing utensils can help spread the disease. Coughing can also pose danger.

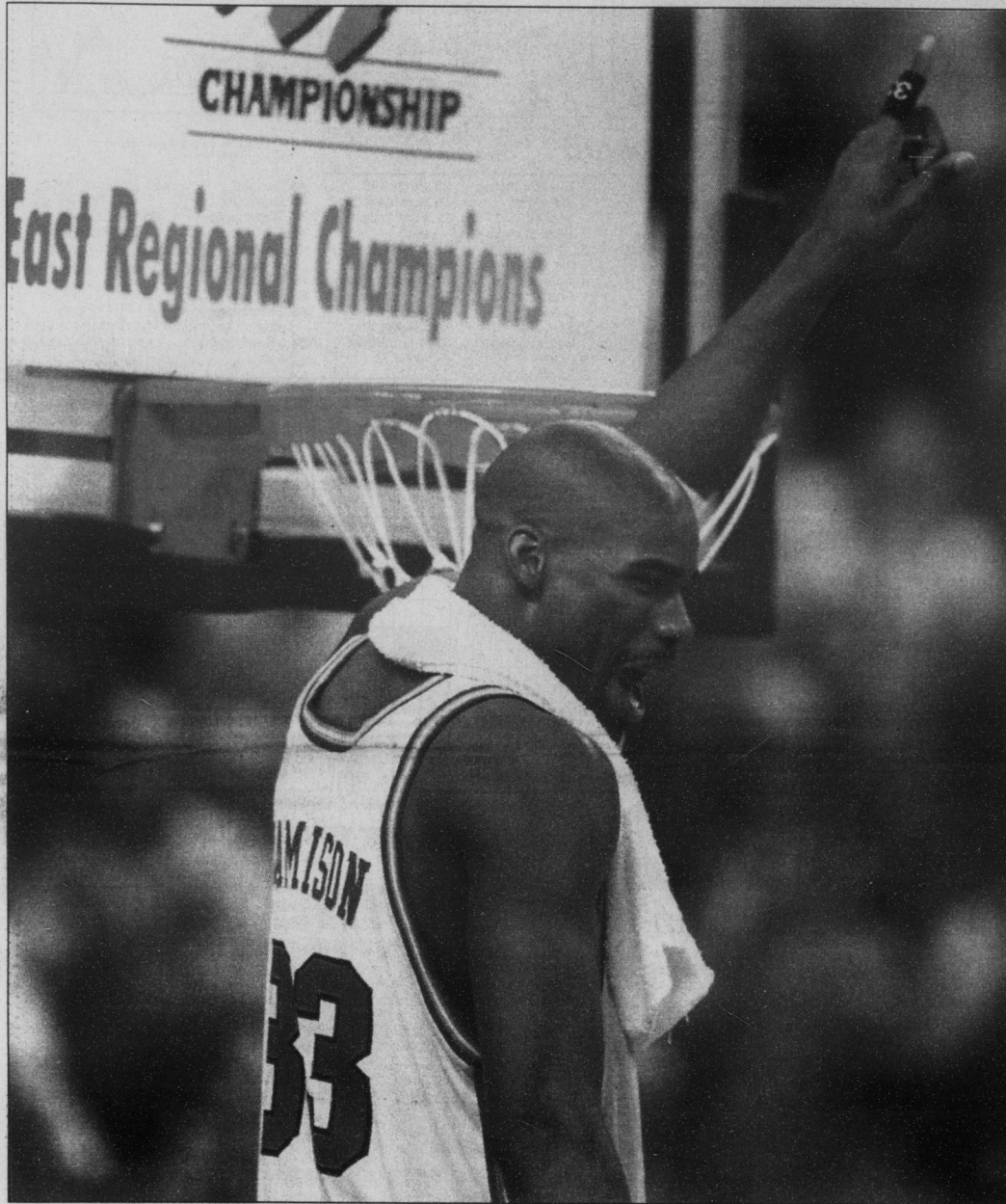
"Bacterial meningitis is not an easy

SEE MENINGITIS, PAGE 5

Meningitis

Meningitis: a contagious disease that causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It is spread by contact with oral secretions, such as through kissing, drinking after or sharing utensils with an infected person.
Symptoms: fever; headaches; a stiff, painful neck; and a rash beginning on the hands or feet.
What to do: Students who experience these symptoms or who have questions should call Student Health Service.

SOURCE: UNC NEWS SERVICES



North Carolina forward Antawn Jamison celebrates by cutting down the nets after the Tar Heels' 75-64 win against Connecticut in the NCAA East Regional Final. The win sends the Tar Heels' to their third Final Four in the past four seasons.

Tar Heels topple Huskies; Utah awaits in Final Four

BY KURT TONDORF
SENIOR WRITER

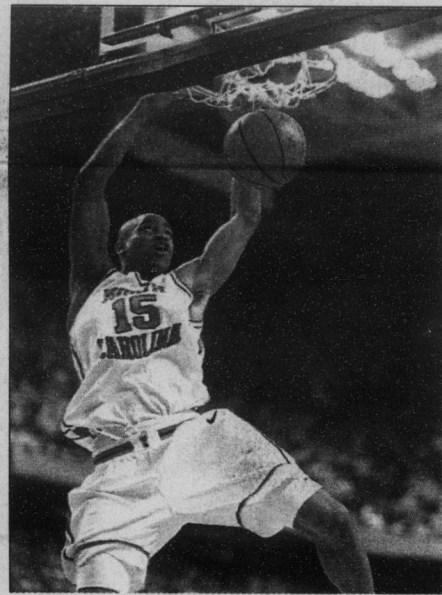
GREENSBORO — The North Carolina Tar Heels hooted, hollered and cut down the nets Saturday night like a Final Four-bound team should, much to the delight of the partisan crowd of 22,235 at Greensboro Coliseum who expected nothing less.

But the top-seeded Tar Heels expect so much more. They were pleased with their controlling 75-64 victory over No. 2 seed Connecticut in the East Regional final, marking the fifth time this decade and the 14th time overall that UNC has advanced to the biggest dance of them all. It's just that there's a canyon between happiness and satisfaction, and right now, the Tar Heels are nowhere near satisfied.

"Getting to the Final Four is great, by far, but it's getting old," UNC senior Shammond Williams said. "Now the most

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, PAGE 5

Men's basketball
UConn 64
UNC 75



UNC swingman Vince Carter throws home two of his 12 points against Connecticut in the Tar Heels' 75-64 win.

Okulaja snaps drought with clutch shooting

BY ALEC MORRISON
SENIOR WRITER

GREENSBORO — Somewhere in the middle of the regular-season stretch run, North Carolina's Ademola Okulaja officially went into a slump.

The numbers were printed proof: 8-of-33 shooting in his final four regular-season games, 1 of his last 21 3-point attempts to close the regular season. The tangible evidence of Okulaja's struggles came against Duke on Feb. 28, when the Devils slacked off Okulaja to double down on Antawn Jamison.

Teams have maintained that philosophy through the postseason, forcing Okulaja to prove he's worth their time. But Saturday night, he continued his official rebirth in the second half of UNC's 75-64 win over Connecticut in the East Regional championship at the Greensboro Coliseum. He scored 12 points in the period and added seven rebounds in the game. How long before the remaining tournament catches on?

"Okulaja was certainly a big factor," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said. "(According to the scouting report) he was in a slump. I think we gave him too long a look. You don't have to keep out on him like you do with (Shammond) Williams, but you certainly have to find him."

Lately, Okulaja has found himself.

SEE OKULAJA, PAGE 5

Hidden debate

BY SCOTT HICKS
STAFF WRITER

Once a month at 10 a.m., the future of the UNC system is laid out on the table to be approved.

Two hours and several unanimously supported proposals later, the meeting adjourns until the following month, as Board of Governors members linger over doughnuts and coffee before leaving.

To the public, one important detail seems to be missing from the morning debate.

With issues as controversial as tuition increases and admissions policies coming before the BOG, students might find this lack of discussion frightening.

Many students would probably agree that a proposal for a tuition hike deserves more discussion and consideration than a proposal to create a new department at UNC-Greensboro, for

instance. But what most students and the public do not see is the discussion that exists between full board meetings. While BOG members talk policy both in and out of public session, most discussion occurs in committee.

"The BOG functions primarily through its committee structure," said Mark Bibbs, a Raleigh attorney and former BOG member. In committee, officials from General Administration and the 16 constituent schools make recommendations for BOG approval. Committee members and the public then have the opportunity



A week-long series looking at the politics of higher education in the UNC system.

to ask questions and suggest changes.

Board members said they found the wealth of information helpful in reaching consensus.

"You've got a very intense amount of research that goes into policies before the BOG," said Terry Eaton, a non-voting BOG member and Association of Student Governments president. "They get unanimous support because all the kinks have been worked out."

While each BOG member cannot serve on every committee, many members attend all the committee meetings to preview proposals and to voice their opinions.

"They are open to the public, and we quite often go to them," said Maxine O'Kelley, a BOG member from Burlington. "I think it's a matter of understanding what the issues are."

Unlike the full board's meetings, committee meetings are anything but quiet and unanimous.

The structure of power

The UNC system has a well-structured decision-making process. Each board or leader is responsible to a higher level, ensuring quality policy initiatives.

Board of Governors: 32 members elected by the N.C. General Assembly for four-year terms. Board elects president.

President: Chief executive officer of the UNC system.

Chancellor: Each of the 16 campuses have a chancellor who is responsible to the president.

Board of Trustees: Each institution has a board of trustees consisting of 8 members elected by the BOG, 4 appointed by the governor and the student body president who serves as ex-officio. Extensive powers over academic and other operations of its campus.

SOURCE: UNC GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

"If the press were to cover it, you'd see a lot of lively discussion," Bibbs said.

Debate, however, does not follow political lines.

"Everyone on the board is elected by the legislature, but once we're on the board, partisan politics take a back seat," said Tim Moore, a BOG member from Kings Mountain.

"We aren't driven by agendas — we aren't driven by ideologies," Eaton said. Instead, concern for the UNC system united BOG members, said C.D. Spangler, former system president.

"The people who are on the BOG are chosen primarily because they are

supportive of what the University is attempting to do," he said.

Previous boards were just as unanimous as the current board, Spangler said.

"In the past, there has been substantial agreement about many important matters," he said. "For instance, the issue of preserving low tuition was something that previous boards never questioned."

"They, because of their long experience in the state, knew how important that was."

Still, new members to the board

SEE SECRECY, PAGE 5

INSIDE Monday

New technology horizons

With the announcement of the Carolina Computing Initiative, UNC is continuing its tradition of looking into the future of technology. *Page 11*

And the Oscar goes to ...

The 70th Annual Academy Awards show will be presented tonight on ABC. Billy Crystal will host the biggest awards show in the world. *Page 5*

The chosen ones

Emily Williamson and James Dasher will serve as student body vice president and treasurer in the Reyna Walters administration. *Page 3*

Today's weather

Mostly sunny;
mid 50s
Tuesday: Cloudy, showers;
low 50s

Hopefully when we leave San Antonio, we'll be celebrating again.

Shammond Williams