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Report says advising system understaffed

BY CHRIS HOSTETLER
STAFF WRITER

An outside assessment of UNC's academic advising system released Tuesday found advisers to be dedicated but the system greatly understaffed.

The report made six principal recommendations, including "Expand greatly the advising staff by adding professional advisers."

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Bobbi Owen said she saw the addition of resources as the most needed of the recommended changes.

"Many people will be glad for additional resources and recognize the need for more help," Owen said.

Owen is a member of the steering committee reviewing the report. The

committee was formed to bring in the outside review team, made up of three faculty members from other universities. Before presenting the report to Chancellor Michael Hooker, the committee will prepare each of the recommendations for application.

The recommendation to add advisers means that the University would have to hire professional, full-time advisers to supplement the system, committee member Lacey Hawthorne said.

Faculty members serve as advisers at UNC. Most universities have full-time advisers to lessen the burden on faculty advisers who have other job-related responsibilities, the report states.

Hawthorne said she would like the committee to follow through with the recommendations but that the committee needed to deal with other issues before making decisions.

"Right now, we're making sure (the report is) out in the public for people to see and comment on," Hawthorne said.

Owen said she also wanted to make the report available to as many people as possible.

Academic Advising Reform Co-ordinator
SEE ADVISING, PAGE 9



Senior advisor LACEY HAWTHORNE said the University would have to hire professional, full-time advisers.

CONGRATULATIONS



Assistant Professor Deb Aikat is congratulated for being named superlative favorite faculty member for the 1997-1998 academic year Wednesday afternoon.

Price unveils campus plan for childcare

Under the plan, UNC would receive \$33,000 to establish a program.

BY ASHLEY RYNESKA
STAFF WRITER

Affordable childcare could be available directly on college campuses, come mid-October, if Congress approves legislation unveiled by U.S. Rep. David Price.

Price, D-N.C., held a press conference at N.C. Central University Tuesday to address the recent lack of on-site childcare available on college campuses.

"Finding affordable, quality childcare is a real obstacle that Triangle college students face," said Kym Spell, spokeswoman for Price.

"All young people, including parents, should have the opportunity to get an education."

Price said he realized a better childcare option was needed after many Triangle students expressed concerns about the need for dependable, inexpensive childcare at their schools.

"I would love it if UNC had a good childcare system," said Martha Hernandez, a UNC senior and a mother of a 4-month-old son.

"Not only do I love the atmosphere at UNC, but I'd feel safer if I knew my son was on campus while I was in class," she said.

The legislation would provide a modest amount of funding to universities, ranging from \$11,000 to \$47,000. Under the plan, UNC-CH would receive \$33,000 to establish a childcare program.

Price said he hoped the funds would serve as an incentive for colleges to invest in better childcare. "This money is not intended to construct and entirely new facility," Price said.

"This is seed money — a basis to build on," he said.

Price suggested schools could use the
SEE CHILDCARE, PAGE 9



U.S. Rep. DAVID PRICE, D-N.C., said he developed the option when Triangle college students expressed a need for childcare.

Local officials fear copycat teen suicides

One local school official said a case of suicide was often followed by others.

BY STEVE MRAZ
SENIOR WRITER

With two teen suicides in the area recently, local counselors and school officials are taking efforts to control the possibility of more deaths.

When one teen commits suicide, other at-risk teens see that as permission for them to take their own lives, said Vann Joines, a psychologist at the Southeast Institute for Group and Family Therapy.

Mekye Malcom of Durham killed himself Tuesday near the baseball field at Carolina Friends School, a private school in Durham.

The 16-year-old student hanged himself by kneeling forward with a thin rope attached to a tree and his neck, said Darius Amjadi, Orange County medical examiner.

Officials at Carolina Friends School declined to comment on the incident Wednesday but did say classes were not being canceled.

In a similar incident almost two weeks ago, Laura Ashley Williams, 13, a seventh-grader at Grey Culbreth Middle School in Chapel Hill, entered a bathroom at the school and shot herself in the head during classes.

"It's hard to tell how many it will affect," Joines said. "Usually you have two or three (suicides) in a row, and then it dies out."

Joines said recognition of suicides by the media might make some people who feel alienated see suicide as a way to get recognition of their own.

"Kids that age have a romantic notion about suicide," he said. "They don't realize that once they're dead they are not going to know what happens as a result of their death."

Teens receiving counseling and already at risk of suicide did not take news of the deaths as well as others, said Alicia Graham, crisis director at Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health Agency.

"We had to put two kids in the hospital," she said. "They were not able to keep themselves safe. This is not unusual."

"Kids don't realize how vulnerable they are until something like this happens."

Sarah Tillis, director of the Northside Clinic in Chapel Hill, said no one could tell if Williams' suicide influenced Malcom's or not.

SEE SUICIDE, PAGE 9

Candidates question ethics of education survey

BY SCOTT WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

A survey for Orange County commissioner candidates could receive more concerns than responses.

Ethical questions were raised by candidates Bill Crowther and Stephen Halkiotis after a questionnaire was distributed from the Superintendent's office of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

The questionnaire was designed to gather responses from the candidates on funding for public education. The responses will be printed on a flyer by the school system and sent to the parents of students, said Kim Hoke, spokeswoman for the school system.

Crowther said his concern was that tax dollars were used by the school system's administration to influence the upcoming county primary elections. "I

don't think the administration of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools should be using money for political purposes," he said.

He referred to campaign finance laws passed in 1997 which stated that if some organization wanted to spend money on an election they had to do it through political action committees.

"What's important is if anyone is spending money to influence the election, they need to spend the money through PACs," Crowther said.

Technically, however, the school system is not violating any laws. Officials from the Orange County Board of Elections said PACs were needed when candidates were supported or endorsed, not for forums or questionnaires.



Hoke said the questionnaires and the flyers were distributed purely for voter information. "It's not to make an endorsement," she said. "It's to get the candidates' views on education before the people who are most interested, mainly the parents."

Nevertheless, the questionnaires have provoked criticism from the candidates. Halkiotis said he would have preferred to receive the questionnaire from someone else. "If the PTA or SGC (School Governance Committee) wanted that kind of information, it should have come from them instead of the Superintendent's office," he said.

Superintendent Neil Pedersen said it was for the sake of expediency that the questionnaire went out under his signature. "I'm the secretary to the Board of Education," he said. "It's not unusual for me to send out things on behalf of the board."

Pedersen said the board and the chairmen of the SGCs asked him to provide questions to the commissioners that would get their opinions on supporting public education. "I was sending it out on their behalf," he said. "This was not something I decided to do on my own."

Though 47 percent of the board's funds go to the local and county school systems annually, Halkiotis said a line needed to be drawn between education and politics. "I don't think you can mix up the superintendent's office with any kind of poll," he said. "I think you need to keep it separate."

But Pedersen said it was important to make sure the public was informed. "I don't see anything unethical about asking the candidates their positions on support of public education and then providing that information without comment to the parents of our students."



Tracy Reid, left, announced her signing of a two-year contract with the Women's National Basketball Association. Coach Sylvia Hatchell joined Reid at the press conference Wednesday at the Smith Center.

Reid chooses WNBA over ABL, inks 2-year contract

BY AARON BEARD
SPORTS EDITOR

There was no doubt all season that North Carolina's All-American forward Tracy Reid would play professional basketball following her Tar Heel career.

The only question was whether she

would sign on with the American Basketball League or the Women's National Basketball Association.

And while the rival leagues courted the two-time Kodak All-American and ACC Player of the Year for her services, in the end it was the sister league of the glitzy NBA that snagged Reid, signing

her to a two-year contract Tuesday and making her eligible for the April 29 WNBA Draft.

Reid made the announcement Wednesday at a news conference at the Smith Center. She was joined by coach Sylvia Hatchell, the coaching staff and Tar Heel team.

"I visited New York last week and saw what the league had to offer," Reid said. "It was a tough decision. I didn't flip a coin or anything. ... You have to choose what league is best for you. I wouldn't mind playing for either. But I

SEE REID, PAGE 9

INSIDE Thursday

A little change for the mind

The last show of the year for the **OPERA** PlayMakers Repertory Company is "Threepenny Opera," by Bertolt Brecht. The musical is more elaborate than the other shows of the year. Page 5

Spring fling

Spring finally has sprung. With warm sunshine and blooming flowers all around, students are finding it harder than ever to attend their classes. Page 4

Today's weather

Partly sunny, windy, low 80s
Friday: Chance of thunderstorms, high 70s

Summertime news

Worried about the summer session blues? The Daily Tar Heel has the cure. Come write or work as a desk editor for the paper's weekly summer edition. Applications will be available Friday at the DTH front desk in Union 104. Interested students can call Editor-select Sharif Durhams at 962-0245.

I love children — especially when they cry, for then someone takes them away.

Nancy Mitford