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UNC Suspends 3 Wrestlers for '98 Season

Wrestling coach Bill Lam says wrestlers are no longer allowed to go to fraternity parties without Lam's OK.

By MONICA DEV AND AARON BEARD
Staff Writers

Three UNC wrestlers have been suspended from the wrestling team for the 1998-99 season.

Seniors Chad Priest and David Flowers and redshirt freshman Steve Echeverri were suspended as a result of an Oct. 14 fight at the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house.

The decision was made by Athletics Director Dick Baddour, wrestling coach Bill Lam, Senior Associate Director of Athletics Beth Miller and Senior Associate Athletic Director Larry Gallo

after an investigation into the incident.

"After evaluation of the situation we decided that this was the right course of action," Baddour said.

Although the Department of Athletics has recently come under fire for a number of athlete suspensions due to misconduct, Baddour said he and others involved in the decision to suspend the three wrestlers felt no external pressure to make examples of them.

"We have always said that we will deal with any issues on an individual basis ... to be fair to the individuals involved," he said.

Lam, however, said the University had to hold firm in disciplining the athletes.

"From the chancellor on down, they're trying to take a hard stand to make sure the UNC athletics program is held in high esteem," Lam said.

"They won't settle for anything less. I

feel the same way. Sometimes you have to make tough decisions to keep it at that level."

Priest and Flowers are seniors academically and will graduate this year. Echeverri's reinstatement will be re-evaluated at the beginning of the 1999-2000 school year.

Priest, who was charged with simple assault and resisting arrest in connection with the incident, was a walk-on for the Tar Heels.

Lam said he invited Priest to work out with the team because Priest wanted to be a part of the program.

"When this kind of thing happens and you've got starters that don't drink and make a bigger commitment, you have to ask yourself why you let a person come out who you knew might not make the team but could help," Lam said.

"Sometimes I should be selfish and

only let people on the team that I've recruited and I know will make the commitment."

Echeverri was recruited by the Tar Heels, but Lam said he did not have scholarship money available for him. Echeverri is the nephew of former UNC four-time ACC champion Al Palacio.

Flowers was also a walk-on. Lam said Flowers was suspended because he was already on team-administered probation for team-rule violations when the incident occurred.

"I told him any type of mishap at all, he would be gone," Lam said. "That's the reason he was removed. From all reports, he didn't cause a problem at the party."

"The only reason he was removed was that he was on probation and was out that late, and it cost him a position

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Suspensions Handed Down

UNC Athletics Director Dick Baddour and wrestling coach Bill Lam suspended three wrestlers from all team-related activities Thursday. Two are seniors and will not return next season.



Chad Priest, a senior, was charged with simple assault and resisting and delaying an officer.



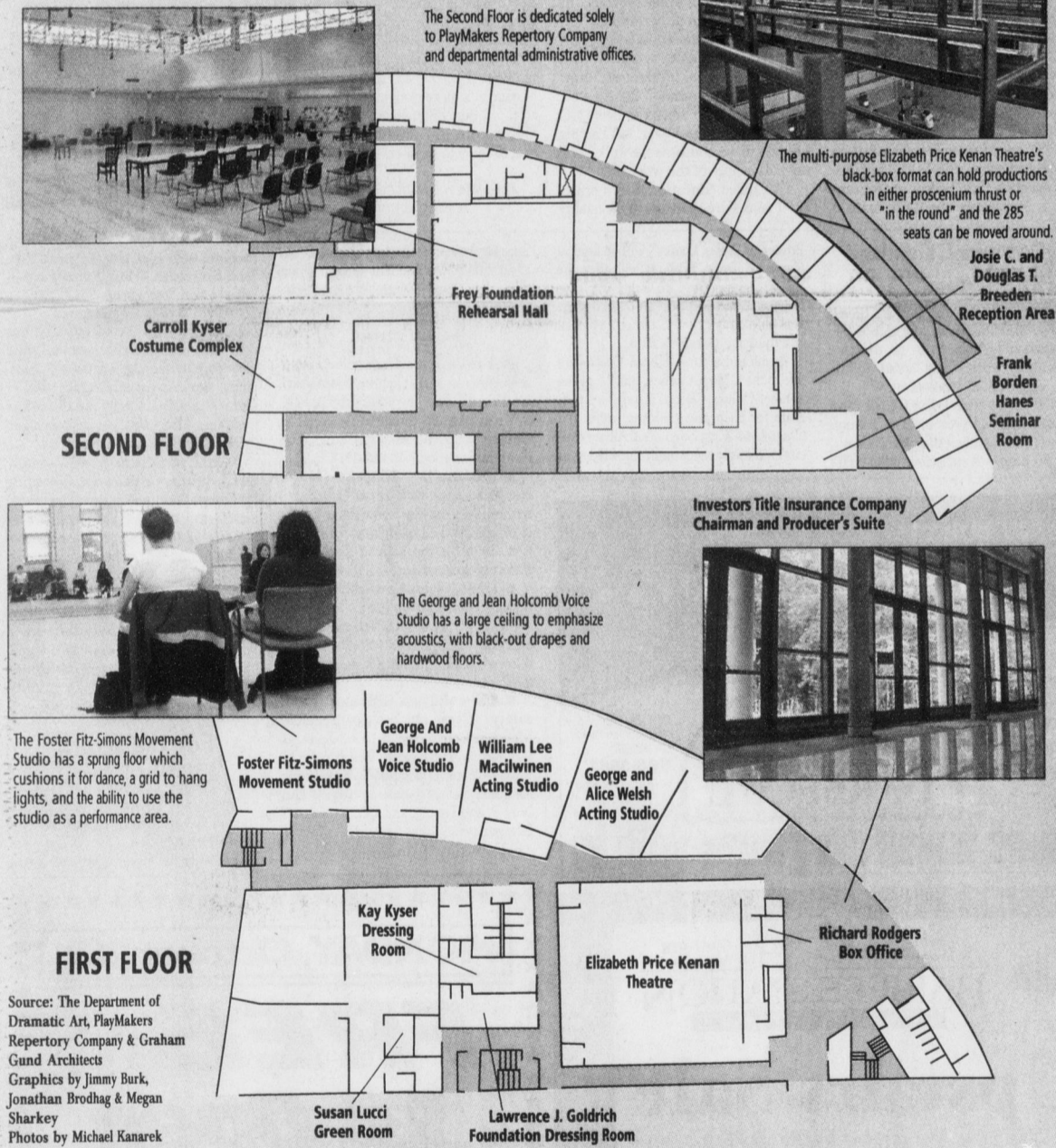
David Flowers, a senior, was removed from the team because he was already on team probation.



Steve Echeverri, a sophomore, could be reinstated with the team at the beginning of next school year.

Center Focuses on Flexibility

The state-of-the-art Center for Dramatic Art's design places emphasis on performance space with its five rehearsal halls and the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre. Architects tried to make the building as "flexible as possible" for UNC's thespians.



Parents Angered At Team's Penalty

All Chapel Hill High School men's varsity soccer players were suspended when nine were caught with alcohol.

By JENNIFER KNESEL
Staff Writer

A mother stood weeping Thursday night, frustrated with Chapel Hill High School officials and the punishment recently doled out to her son, a varsity soccer player.

The CHHS Tiger's season ended abruptly Monday night after several team members were caught drinking on school property. Parents and teammates met at CHHS to vent about how the incident was handled.

"Every single person in this room wishes Monday night didn't happen," CHHS senior Davis Boyle said.

Boyle is one of nine team members suspended for drinking alcohol on an activity bus headed to a soccer game against Person High School in Roxboro.

Although only nine of the 22 players were caught drinking, the entire varsity team will be punished.

"The way that the situation was so mishandled is that the students will not

come away from this experience with the message of no drinking," said Joe Pfeiffer, whose son was on the team.

He said the punishment did not teach the right lesson because the school did not distinguish between players who actually brought alcohol onto school property, players who knew about the drinking but did not participate, and players who knew nothing at all about the incident.

"I don't think it's right for any of the players who did not participate to be punished," Boyle said.

Soccer parents also complained that school officials did not inform parents of the situation soon enough. Some parents said the players were taken into a room with four adults and interrogated before their parents were even notified.

A Thursday news release from Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools stated some team members would be suspended, some banned from sports for the rest of the year and some placed in the in-school suspension program depending on the individual players' involvement.

The least severe punishment will refer players to a substance abuse program or an ethics workshop.

See SOCCER, Page 4

Interviews 'Rigged' for Board Seat

A school board member says the vice-chairwoman has played favorites in the selection of a new member.

By JONATHAN CHANEY
Staff Writer

Orange County Board of Education member David Kolbinsky accused Vice Chairwoman Susan Dovenbarger Thursday of political favoritism and rigging the appointment process for a new member.

Kolbinsky said Keith Cook, who applied to fill a soon-to-be vacated position, was assured a board appointment by Dovenbarger.

"Keith entered knowing he would get it. A deal was made before he applied," Kolbinsky said. "If Mr. Cook had a decent bone in his body, he would withdraw."

Kolbinsky claimed Dovenbarger was trading favors with Cook. "Mrs. Dovenbarger is a second-term board member who lost a lot of support and needed a new constituency base (in the last board election.) So she made a deal

See CDA, Page 4

Department Raises Curtain on New Center

By JIM MARTIN
Arts & Diversions Editor

Last week, construction crews erected a chain link fence around Graham Memorial Hall, the long-time home of the UNC Department of Dramatic Art.

But the students who would have normally gone there were across campus, attending class for the first time in the new Center for Dramatic Art.

After 13 months of construction and more than 30 years of planning, the "dream" of the department has finally

come to fruition. The anticipated move-in date was delayed from June to October partly due to water damage in September. But as of this week, Visiting Lecturer Julie Fishell said, "Everyone's really beginning to own the space."

Now the department and PlayMakers Repertory Company (UNC's professional residential theater company) are housed in the same building. The department, one of the oldest drama programs in the country, was founded in 1936 and has previously inhabited Smith Hall (now Old Playmakers

Theater) and Graham Memorial.

Construction crews, working with a design from Graham Gund Architects of Cambridge, Mass., added onto Paul Green Theater, built in 1978. Total space approaches 55,000 square feet.

Marketing and Press Director for PlayMakers Pam O'Connor said the building united all levels of the department and PlayMakers, from undergraduates to administrators. She said everyone felt like they worked together better.

"Now we're all together in the same building," she said. "The way they con-

nected the Paul Green Theater was seamless."

With an emphasis on space and flexibility, Director of Development Cecelia Moore said the building created a warm and inclusive feel by utilizing natural lighting, wood paneling and fleshy, earth paint tones on the walls.

"One of the big emphases was that they designed with theater people in mind," Moore said. "There was a lot of attention to detail."

D. H. Lawrence

Never trust the teller. Trust the tale.

INSIDE Friday

Elections '98

Seven candidates for the two open County commissioner seats and Republican and Democrat candidates for U.S. House spell out their views on electoral issues. See Page 2.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Lower 60s
Weekend: Mostly sunny,
upper 60s

It's Time to Fall Back!

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



Calling All Writers

Students who are interested in winning a \$250 grant to report an in-depth story for publication in the DTH should pick up an application in Union 104. The proposals are due Oct. 30.



2426

That's the lucky number for Saturday's basketball ticket distribution. CAA handed out 2,554 tickets. Line up at the Smith Center Saturday morning and be ready for a line check at 6 a.m.

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