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Domestic Partners Plan Held

Chapel-Hill Carrboro City Schools Superintendent Neil Pedersen planned to have a draft ready this month.

By COURTNEY JONES
Staff Writer

A heavy workload will prevent Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Superintendent Neil Pedersen from drafting a proposal to provide employee domestic partners health and insurance benefits until next spring.

In an October interview, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education Chairman Nick Didow said the board expected to receive the proposal from Pedersen in early November.

The proposal would be the first domestic partners policy in a school system in North Carolina. "The policy would recognize unmarried heterosexual couples and gay and lesbian couples as families eligible for employee benefits as readily as traditional families of heterosexual individuals," Didow said.

Hazel Gibbs, director of human resources for the school system, said the staff needed more information. "There are still more questions and issues that need to be resolved, and right now it's still up in the air," she said.

Pedersen said school board members had suggested the plan because the current policy did not address domestic partners. The school board wanted to provide the same benefits to all employees' partners, he said. "There was direction from the board to research that issue and come back with a recommendation of how we can include domestic partners," he said. "That should be coming out next spring."

Plans for a new middle and elementary school and other unforeseen circumstances have required a great deal of staff time, contributing to the delay, Didow said.

"Those sorts of things go over and above the call of operating a school system like this," he said. "It is nothing out of the ordinary for (the proposal) to take

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Students Pan Parking Resolution

The petition counteracts a Congress resolution stating cars without permits should get tickets Sunday.

By CAROL ADAMSON
Staff Writer

Students who want to put the brakes on a Student Congress resolution to limit parking can take action by adding their names to a petition against the resolution.

The petition came in response to a resolution passed Nov. 10 that would make students or visitors without parking permits move their cars from the Hinton James, Morrison and Ehringhaus residence hall parking lots, along with the Aycock Residence Hall Circle lot, by 11:30 p.m. Sunday. Traditionally, citations have not been issued until 7:30 a.m. Monday.

Rep. Evan Sloan, Dist. 16, who started the petition, said the petition was a way to express student dissatisfaction with the resolution. "We want to present (University Police Chief) Derek Poarch

with a petition of over 1,000 names which, in effect, will serve as the true voice of the students," Sloan said.

Sloan, whose district includes Hinton James and Morrison residence halls, said South Campus students were not fairly represented by the resolution.

"My problem with the bill is that the author of the bill (Rep. Jason Arnold, Dist. 13) represents a North Campus district, and three of the four lots proposed in the bill are South Campus lots," he said. "Two of the lots are in my district. However, I wasn't even consulted by the author of the bill."

Jason Sloan, a sophomore biology major from Greensboro, said he had helped his brother, Evan Sloan, collect more than 100 signatures from both permit and non-permit holders.

"Most of the responses have been very enthusiastic," Jason Sloan said.

"People with permits have said it was hard, but never impossible, to find a parking spot on a Sunday night."

The Department of Public Safety conducted a lot count Sunday to determine the number of cars without permits in the named parking lots.

There will be another count next

Sunday, University Police Maj. Jeff McCracken said.

In addition, members of the Transportation Advisory Committee will finalize their recommendation to the Department of Public Safety in December about what should be done in response to the resolution.

Arnold said the information gathered by the lot count and any research conducted by the committee when formulating the resolution would accurately reflect the opinions of students.

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FASHIONABLY FESTIVE



DTH/LAURA LEIGH PAGE

Swati Singh performs a traditional Indian dance for Sangam's portion of the Masala fashion show on Friday. Masala gave cultural groups the chance to showcase various fashions and customs. See story, Page 5

N.C. State Student's Death Prompts Athletes' Arrests

Neil Vernon Davis Jr., a junior from Fayetteville, was shot and killed in his home early Sunday morning.

By COURTNEY WEILL
State & National Editor

RALEIGH — One former and five current N.C. State University athletes were charged Sunday in connection with the death of another N.C. State student.

Neil Vernon Davis Jr., a 21-year-old junior from Fayetteville, died Sunday morning at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh after a shooting in his home around 2:30 a.m., according to a press

release from Raleigh police. His death occurred in the second of two related incidents on Sunday.

Shortly before his death, Davis, of 4306 Hunter's Club Drive, went outside his home and fired several shots from a handgun into the air, Raleigh police Capt. Mike Longmire said.

One shot ricocheted off an object and grazed an N.C. State wrestler in the shoulder at a party across the street at 4311 Hunter's Club Drive, he said.

About 10 minutes later, several N.C. State football players and wrestlers broke into Davis' residence, Longmire said. "They decided to go over and take care of business."

Police believe the men assaulted

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DTH/JON OSTENDORFF

N.C. State wrestler Clyde Williams Blunt was charged with involuntary manslaughter.

UNC Student Assaulted at Bell Tower

By ASHLEY STEPHENSON
University Editor

A UNC student was assaulted Friday night in the Bell Tower parking lot, according to University police reports.

Craig Morton was arrested for attacking his girlfriend, a UNC sophomore from Wilmington. The victim sustained minor injuries, which involved hands,

feet and teeth, reports state.

University Police received a call from the victim at 10:54 p.m., and officer K.D. Heath arrived on the scene to assist the victim, reports state.

Lt. Steve Thornton said both the student and her boyfriend participated in the brawl.

"Basically, there was an argument and signs of assault on both parties,"

Thornton said.

"There were physical marks on both. There was an arrest made, and Mr. Morton was cited with assault."

Past safety concerns regarding the Bell Tower area prompted UNC officials to take steps to make the area safer last semester.

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Let the Games Begin

By ANNA DAUGIRD
Staff Writer

The countdown for the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games has begun.

From June 26 to July 4, the Triangle area will be flooded with athletes who have overcome countless obstacles and traveled thousands of miles to compete in the Games.

Special Olympics, Inc., a nonprofit charitable organization, was designed to provide an athletically competitive outlet for people with mental retardation. This summer's planned event will mark the 10th anniversary of the Games.

With the event months away, UNC students have already taken an active role by helping to organize the event.

UNC junior Nic Heinke, chairman of the Special Olympics student fund-raising committee, said students had become involved in three different ways.

"We've been working on fund-raising and volunteer recruitment. And we are also building awareness of the event," Heinke said. "We're trying to encourage students to get involved."

To motivate the fund-raising efforts, UNC and N.C. State University have been competing since September in a challenge to raise funds. Heinke said the challenge started with each university's student body president.

"Both student body presidents were interested in getting their campus involved with raising awareness," he said. "State's student body president,

See OLYMPICS, Page 5



DTH FILE PHOTO

The 10th Special Olympics World Summer Games will be held June 26 to July 4, 1999 in the Triangle area. The results of a Special Olympics fund-raising competition between UNC and N.C. State University will be announced at the football game between the two schools Saturday.

If liberty has any meaning it means freedom to improve.

Philip Wylie

INSIDE Monday

Battering the Rams



The North Carolina women's basketball team won its third game of the season Saturday, defeating Fordham 82-50 at Carmichael Auditorium in an unspectacular contest that was filled with foul calls. See Page 8.

'Medea' Gets Intimate

Audiences experienced the Greek tragedy 'Medea' in Playmakers Theatre, forming a semi-circle around the actors to experience some in-your-face action. See Page 5

Growing Pains

After a symposium on planning last week, a resident work group will begin a yearlong look at how Chapel Hill should revise its growth goals and plans for development. See Page 2.

Today's Weather

Mostly sunny;
High 60s.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny;
High 60s.