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Court Might Drop Charges Against UNC Wrestler

UNC wrestler Chad Priest will appear in court Jan. 21 to face an additional charge of resisting arrest.

By KELLI BOUTIN
Staff Writer

A UNC wrestler who was arrested after an Oct. 14 brawl at a fraternity party could have charges against him dropped if he pays a fine and attends alcohol awareness classes.

Chad David Priest, 21, of Spruce Pine, was charged with misdemeanor simple assault and resisting arrest after the fight, which occurred at the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house.

Don Dickerson, Priest's lawyer, said the simple assault charge was dropped Monday in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough after a meeting between the prosecution and the defense.

"The parties got together and talked and decided that the (simple assault) charge didn't need to be prosecuted," he said.

Priest, a walk-on for the Tar Heels, was suspended from the team for the remainder of the 1998-99 season in late October after Department of Athletics officials conducted an investigation into the matter.

Dickerson said the charge of



An assault charge was dropped against UNC wrestler Chad Priest.

resisting arrest would be dismissed under a deferred prosecution arrangement that stipulates that Priest must pay an \$80 fine, attend alcohol awareness classes given by Student Health Service and stay out of trouble with the law.

Priest will appear in court again Dec. 21, when the decision will be made as to whether to drop the second charge.

UNC wrestling coach Bill Lam said despite the fact that the charges against Priest may be dropped, he did not regret his decision to suspend Priest.

"Even though it wasn't his fault the fight took place, he was still involved, he

was still out after hours, he still resisted arrest," Lam said. "Being a walk-on or a recruited athlete, we don't want that type of behavior."

Two other wrestlers, senior David Flowers and redshirt freshman Steve Echeverri, were also suspended from the wrestling team for their involvement in the fight.

Dickerson said the facts surrounding the case were very complicated, and the deferred prosecution agreement was the most fair solution.

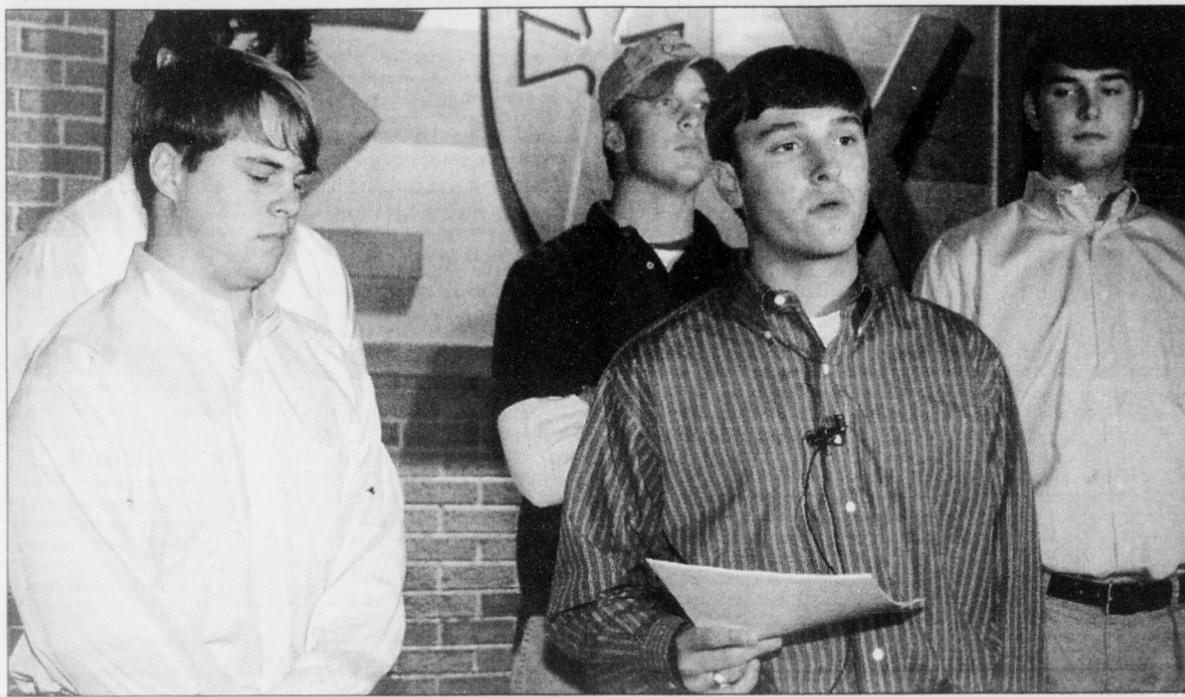
In October, Priest said the fight started when someone hit him and he fought

back in defense. But fraternity members said the wrestlers started the fight.

Phi Delta Theta President Shoff Allison said in October that problems started when a group of wrestlers arrived at the fraternity's mixer party and got on stage with the band.

Dickerson said he was pleased with the results of Monday's hearing. "I think under the circumstances of the case that this was a reasonable way to resolve it."

Aaron Beard contributed to this story.
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N.C. State University senior Ryan Ciccone, president of Sigma Chi fraternity, reads a statement Monday night at Fraternity Row pertaining to the death of Neil Davis. Davis, who was a member of Sigma Chi, died Sunday as the result of a gunshot wound inflicted during a fight at N.C. State.

Raleigh Police Charge 4 More In Davis' Death

Following the death of an N.C. State University junior, the mood at the school is shocked and angry.

By TRISHA L. DABB
AND COURTNEY WEILL
State & National Editors

RALEIGH — The mood at N.C. State University was somber Monday as students resumed classes and were forced to come to grips with the aftermath of Sunday's shooting death of an Neil Vernon Davis Jr., 21, of Fayetteville.

The N.C. State junior died Sunday morning at WakeMed as the result of a gunshot wound to the stomach during a struggle with an N.C. State wrestler, police said.

As the campus grieved, Raleigh police filed charges against four more people Monday in connection with the shooting death.

Rebecca Ann Geiger, 21; Jennifer Erin Sommer, 20; and Maggie Elaine Haney, 20, all members of the N.C. State gymnastics team, were charged with selling malt beverages to a person under 21 and selling malt beverage without a valid ABC permit, a press release from Raleigh police states.

The athletes charged Sunday were

attending a party at the residence of Geiger, Sommer and Haney before the shooting incident.

Christopher Fay Green, 30, of Fayetteville, was also charged Monday with misdemeanor breaking and entering into Davis' residence.

"Everybody was just really shocked," said Rett Haigler, an N.C. State freshman from Winston-Salem. "The guy that got shot was known to be a nice guy and a good Sigma Chi brother, and with just one incident, he is gone."

The incident has left N.C. State with a mixture of emotions, said Tom Stafford, the school's vice chancellor for student affairs.

"There's been a lot of disbelief," he said. "Some anger — people are angry that people did what they did. There's a lot of sorrow. There's disappointment, too, that athletes would do something like this."

"We are all shocked and saddened by the loss of a great brother and a great friend."

RYAN CICCONE
Sigma Chi Fraternity President

Members of the Sigma Chi fraternity, of which Davis was a member, made a brief public statement Monday expressing their sympathies to Davis' friends and family.

"We are all shocked and saddened by the loss of a great brother and a great friend," said Ryan Ciccone, fraternity president and a senior at N.C. State.

"We ask that everyone remember See ARREST, Page 2

Friends, Family Remember Slain N.C. State Student

Neil Vernon Davis Jr., who was killed Sunday, was described as caring and hard-working by his friends.

By MATT DEES
Assistant State & National Editor

"Love prevails over violence." These four words were the only ones Dorothy Davis could muster Monday following the death of her son, Neil, near

N.C. State University.

But the depth of those words epitomizes the desire of those who knew him best to preserve the memory of the young man whose future dreams were ended abruptly early Sunday morning.

"He really had in mind what he wanted to do," said Jenny Beaver, a UNC junior and Davis' former girlfriend. "He wanted to get out of school and start his own business."

Beaver, who dated Davis off and on from the fifth grade to the 11th grade, said she lost one of her dearest friends.

"Everyone has their first love, and he was mine," she said.

"Special friends are very hard to find, but he was, without a doubt, special. He was everything to me."

Rodney Buhrman, Davis' basketball coach at Hillcrest



Neil Davis died Sunday morning from a gunshot wound.

Middle School in Fayetteville, remembered him fondly.

"Neil was a great kid who was full of life," he said. "He was a mischievous little thing when I coached him — not troublesome, but he just loved to have fun."

Buhrman remembered a story that he said epitomized Davis' character.

Davis was interested in a female basketball player in middle school and wanted to ask her to a dance, Buhrman said. But the object of his affection, cur-

See DAVIS, Page 2

Appointed Member Takes Board Oath

By ANGELA LEA
Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Education swore in its newest member Monday night amid no arguments despite recent conflicts surrounding the candidate's appointment.

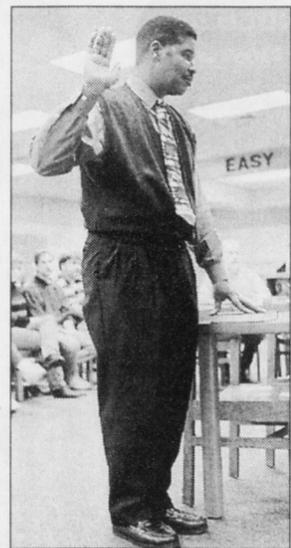
Keith Cook took his oath of office at the board's meeting Monday, then immediately assumed his position on the board while other members and those attending applauded.

Conflict first surfaced at an Oct. 22 meeting when board member David Kolbinsky accused board Vice Chairwoman Susan Dovenbarger of rigging the appointment process.

Kolbinsky said Dovenbarger had promised Cook the empty board seat, which had been unexpectedly vacated by Larry Haverland in September for undisclosed reasons. "Keith entered knowing he would get it," Kolbinsky said at the Oct. 22 meeting. "A deal was made before he applied."

"If Mr. Cook had a decent bone in his body, he would withdraw (from the

See OATH, Page 2



Keith Cook joins Orange County's school board on Monday.

Figures Show Rise in Blacks On Campus

The provost's office issued the report in response to the Black Student Movement's 22 demands.

By EMILY CRAMER
Staff Writer

A report issued by University officials indicates a rise in the number of black students on campus during the past four years, but some campus leaders say there is room for improvement.

The report was released Nov. 20 by the Office of the Provost in response to 22 demands the Black Student Movement presented to Chancellor Michael Hooker in 1997. The demands were designed by the BSM to improve black students' experience at UNC.

The report, which has results from fall 1997, shows that of the 24,189 students enrolled, 9.8 percent are black. Black undergraduates numbered 1,649 of 14,826 total undergraduate students in 1997. Of the 6,764 students

Presence of Blacks on Campus

Some UNC officials say the results show improvement in the number of blacks at UNC, but some campus leaders say much more work needs to be done to achieve diversity.

Fall 1997 Enrollment of Black Students Summary			
Status	# of Black Students	Total Enrollment	Percentage
Freshman	433	3,477	12.5
Sophomore	379	3,192	11.9
Junior	412	3,910	10.5
Senior	425	4,227	10.1
Unclassified	47	515	9.1
Graduate	445	6,764	6.6
Professional	223	2,104	10.6
TOTAL	2,364	24,189	9.8

Summary of Black/African American Tenure/Tenure Track Faculty

'93-'94	'94-'95	'95-'96	'96-'97	'97-'98
59	70	68	68	73

SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

enrolled in graduate school, the report indicated that a black graduate student population of 445 existed.

BSM President Tamara Bailey said recruiting efforts played a big hand in the gradual increase in black students, yet the University needed to improve its methods of retaining them. "I think a lot of applause needs to be given to the efforts of minority recruitment," she said. "There needs to be a greater effort once they get here to make sure they stay here and graduate."

The report also showed an increase of 14 tenured and tenure-track black faculty since 1993, raising the number from 59 to 73.

Gerald Horne, director of the Institute of African-American Research, said the smaller numbers in the increase of black UNC faculty signalled a larger problem. "The lack of black faculty does not encourage confidence among the black population of this University," he

See REPORT, Page 2

INSIDE Tuesday

Money Bags

The local chapter of the Sierra Club asked the Chapel Hill Town Council to consider reforming its current campaign finance laws Monday night. Sierra Club members said only small and disclosed contributions will keep local elections fair. See Page 2.

UNC Tops Hampton

North Carolina moved to 4-0 on the season by beating Hampton 86-75 on the road Monday night. UNC will face No. 11 Purdue next on Wednesday in the Big Apple for the semifinal round of the Chase Preseason NIT Tournament. See Page 7.

Na-Day in Durham

UNC wide receiver Na Brown became the all-time leading receiver in school history Saturday during the Tar Heels' 28-6 win at Duke. Brown finished with two touchdowns. See Page 7.

Today's Weather

Mostly sunny;
Upper 60s.
Wednesday: Partly cloudy;
mid 60s.

Fear has a smell, as Love does.

Margaret Atwood