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Officials: Drug Report Misleading

By COURTNEY HATHAWAY
Staff Writer

The annual report on illegal drug activity on UNC-system campuses recently released by the Board of Governors is being called misleading by BOG members, campus officials and students.

The number of alleged drug violations in the report ranged from three at Elizabeth City State University to 116 at Appalachian State University. UNC-Chapel Hill reported 16 drug violations. Officials and students say such discrepancies are the result of different methods used to target drug violations on the 16 system campuses.

The different levels of enforcement hinder the drawing of accurate conclusions from the report, said Paul Cousins, director of the office of student conduct at N.C. State University. N.C. State reported 67 violations.

Cousins said different circumstances affected the evidence, including whether the students live on campus or off, and the schools that were large enough to have police departments versus campus reliance on city police.

Barbara Daye, ASU's associate vice president for student development, said it was foolish to believe that all schools dealt with drug problems in the same way. She said the high numbers did not reflect negatively on the school.

"That number that's turned in only reflects the fact that we take the policy very seriously," Daye said. "We're fairly aggressive in dealing with this."

Christy Barrick, ASU's student government vice president, said the drug

problem was a high priority for the school. "More people are caught because we're so diligent," she said. "(The number) has increased due to an increase in our policies."

The ASU police can search a room without a warrant if there is probable cause, such as a resident assistant smelling marijuana outside of the room, Barrick said.

If a UNC-CH resident assistant suspects drug use, they call University Police to handle the situation, said John Brothers, a resident assistant in Old West.

BOG member Robert Warwick said the numbers made some schools appear to have a larger drug problem. "I don't think (ASU) has a problem that's eight times as bad as Chapel Hill. It's in the way things are enforced and reported."

Jeff Nieman, president of the Association of Student Governments and nonvoting BOG member, said the UNC-CH numbers were unrealistic. As a resident assistant in Granville Towers, he said he had turned in three people himself for drug violations.

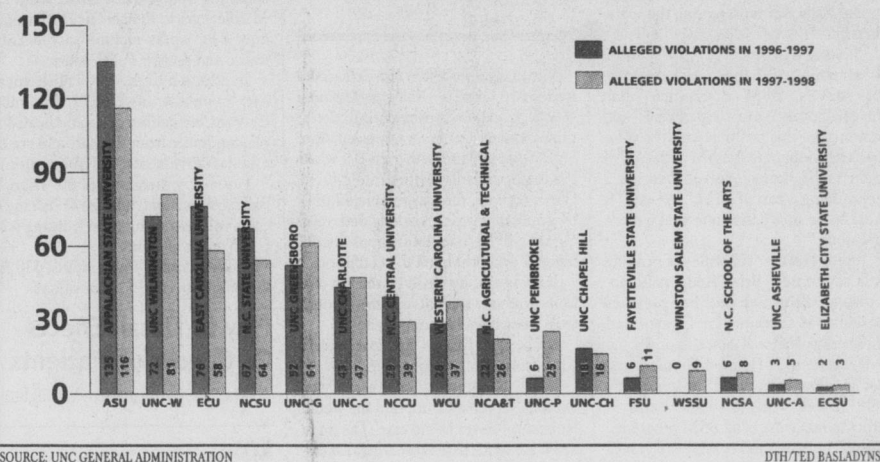
"The institution itself just doesn't want it to appear that they have a drug problem," he said. "I don't really think the drug problem is any better or any worse at either (ASU or UNC-CH). We have to attack this at a grassroots level with the people that are catching these violations and let them know that they need to be taking them seriously."

Students from UNC-CH and ASU also said the report did not reflect actual presence of drugs on campus.

UNC-CH freshman Dino Alexander said he was suspicious of the low results

Drug Violations Across the UNC-System

A study released by the UNC-system Board of Governors reported both drops and rises in reported alleged drug violations across the system. Appalachian State University remained the system leader, with 116 reports in 1997-98. UNC-Chapel Hill reported only 16 violations last year.



SOURCE: UNC GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

DTH/TED BASLADYNSKI

because drug use was rampant in his hometown of Fayetteville and assumed Chapel Hill was similar. "Either (the students) are following the rules to the letter or someone's not doing their job right," he said.

At ASU, students also complained about the misleading nature of the study.

Ben Jacobs, an ASU junior communications major, said the numbers hurt the school's reputation. "People will think this is a party school and that stu-

dents don't come here for education purposes," he said. "But that's not true. I just think more people get caught here."

Betsy Davidson, an ASU senior accounting major, said the school's administrators had no tolerance for violators of the drug policy. "It's common knowledge that a lot of students use drugs, which is sad," Davidson said. "But when they get caught, no excuse is appropriate (to the administration)."

She said she, like most students, knew several people who used drugs.

At UNC-CH, Matt Sullivan, substance abuse program coordinator, said there were few violations because most students valued their education.

"It's reflective of the atmosphere we've created on campus to make the students not want to do drugs."

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Council Predicts Tax Hike

Town leaders say a tight budget this year will mean less funding assistance for community groups.

By DANIELE EUBANKS
Staff Writer

With leaner sales tax revenues and a growing demand for money from community groups, town officials are predicting a 4-cent increase in property taxes to generate funding.

The sales tax revenue has been flat in the last quarter rather than exhibiting its usual growth, and Town Manager Cal Horton said it was projected to remain that way for the next 18 months.

Town officials hope the possible tax hike will help alleviate the shortage of town funding caused by a combination of tapering revenue growth and new expenditure requests, Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said.

She said town groups that would vie for funding during the next few months might be dealt less money this year. "Revenue growth projections for the town aren't as good as they have been, so we may be looking at a tighter budget than we have seen in recent years."

It is not clear which groups might get less money or what the shortage could

See TAX, Page 2

Reeves to Take Case To Court

Ex-candidate Jermain Reeves says he should be allowed to keep votes from certain graduate students.

By JIM HARRIS
Staff Writer

Disputed election results and a ballot recount in the race for the Residence Hall Association presidency has led former candidate Jermain Reeves to file a complaint with the Student Supreme Court, Chief Justice Calvin Cunningham said Thursday.

Reeves initially secured the position after receiving 810 votes Feb. 9 while write-in candidate Murray Coleman won only 743. But problems arose last week when a recount revealed Coleman as the winner with 743 votes, while Reeves had only 703 votes.

Elections Board Chairwoman Heather Faulk said the recount was necessary because some of Reeves' votes were cast by graduate students, some of whom were not allowed to vote for RHA president.

Faulk said graduate students who live on campus, in Districts 10-16, must pay the \$9.25 RHA fee per semester in order to cast votes for the post.

The School of Law's Grapevine cafeteria poll site displayed an increased number of voters this year compared to previous years. For this reason, Faulk decided to recount the votes and found there were too many votes for all the voters to be on-campus residents.

"We recounted the votes and found that there were only two undergraduate voters (at the Grapevine)," Faulk said.

RHA President David Jernigan said the graduate students who lived on campus could not have their votes counted due to poll machine errors.

"There are approximately 100 graduate students who live in Craige and pay RHA fees," he said. "Craige is in District 16, but when graduate students vote, the poll machines register them by their graduate district before their resident district."

See VOTES, Page 2

DRAWING DAISIES



Nick Vitali, 9, examines a daisy during a classical drawing class at the Carrboro ArtsCenter. The class, taught by Pittsboro resident Frances Schultzberg, was using charcoal as the students, ages 9 to 12, drew the flower. The goal of the class is "to push the eyes and hands to work better together."

DTH/JENNIFER GUTHRIE

Ex-Medical Student Sentenced to Prison

Associated Press

GREENSBORO - A federal judge sentenced a former UNC medical student Wednesday to four years in federal prison for his involvement in the worldwide "Wonderland" child pornography ring.

William J. Rosa, who had been a fourth-year student in the UNC School of Medicine, had pleaded guilty in October to one count of felony sexual exploitation of minors. The maximum possible sentence was 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Chief District Court Judge Frank Bullock sentenced Rosa on Wednesday.

He also ordered Rosa, upon his release, to register as a sex offender wherever he lives. Moreover, he must undergo three years of supervised

release and cannot possess or access online computers without prior approval.

"I know I've done wrong, and I'm really sorry," Rosa said before his sentencing.

Rosa was the second person in the ring to be sentenced. Prospective members were required to own at least 10,000 images of child pornography, which they traded over the Internet.

In one of the seized British computers, authorities found more than 40,000 pornographic images.

Court documents said Rosa, 32, received and distributed pornographic images involving children via computer from June 1997 through Sept. 1, 1998, when U.S. Customs agents searched his

See ROSA, Page 2

Candidates Prepare for BSM Elections

Candidates running for Black Student Movement offices will appear at a forum set for next week.

By AMY ANDERSON
Staff Writer

A new crew of Black Student Movement officers will be elected Thursday, and candidates say they plan to continue campuswide awareness and activism.

Junior Christopher Faison is the only candidate running for BSM president since sophomore LaMar Mack said he withdrew from the race due to personal issues. Faison could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Sophomores Brandon Loston and Eboni Staton said they planned to run

See BSM, Page 2

INSIDE Friday

Let the Games Begin
Coach Jenny Slingluff-Levy leads the North Carolina women's lacrosse team in the pursuit of its first national championship after two trips to the Final Four in three years. Get the lowdown on this year's squad and all of UNC's spring sports teams inside. See Insert.



Today's Weather

Rain;
Mid 40s.
Weekend: Partly sunny;
Lower 40s.

The same time that women came up with PMS, men came up with ESPN.

Blake Clark