

THE LAST DTH OF THE 1900s

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Miris Claims UNC-C Nabbed Wrong Man

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
Assistant State & National Editor

RALEIGH — A small group of spectators converged on the steps of the Wake County Courthouse on Monday to hear former UNC Association of Student Governments President Nick Miris release evidence alleging his innocence.

Miris claimed UNC-Charlotte mishandled an investigation and Sept. 1 administrative hearing that resulted in his suspension from the school.

Miris was barred from UNC-C until spring 2001 for allegedly sending threatening e-mail to Jill McCartney, Miris' former girlfriend and editor of UNC-C's newspaper, The University Times.

McCartney claimed that Miris stole her purse in July and used her credit card to open the MSN Hotmail account from which the e-mail was sent.

But Miris and his lawyer, Nate Pendley, said neither the police nor the administration contacted Microsoft to find the identity of the individual who logged on to Hotmail only two minutes after the threatening e-mail was sent.

Pendley said whoever sent the e-mail did not disconnect from the campus server prior to logging on under a second, legitimate e-mail address.

"That is where he made his mistake," he said.

After three months of legal wrangling with Microsoft's confidentiality laws, Pendley said he was able to learn the name of the owner of the sec-

ond account.

According to Microsoft's records, the account was not registered to Nick Miris. Pendley said the account's owner was a UNC-C student.

Miris said the student's name was not one he recognized, but he expressed relief that evidence of his alleged innocence had surfaced.

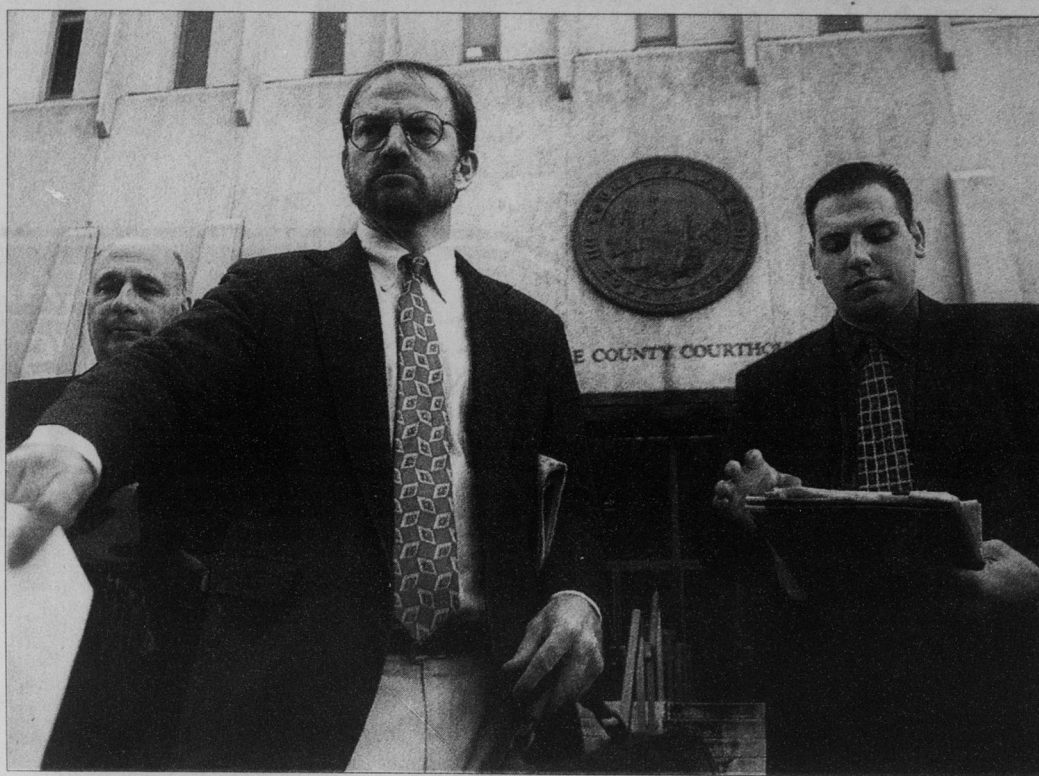
"For a moment, just imagine yourself being branded the equivalent of a psychopathic rapist, seeing your picture plastered on the front pages of every newspaper and television station in the state of North Carolina," he said. "If I had to choose two emotions that best describe my feelings today, these would be outrage and relief."

He blamed UNC-C's administration for failing to conduct a thorough search for suspects and also for placing the burden of proof on him instead of on police. "Everyone should realize that the university and its investigators played no role whatsoever and offered no assistance in seeing that justice was served, or that this day would come," he said.

Miris said his conviction was symptomatic of inherent inadequacies in the student judicial system. He said the system should be reformed to ensure that due process was extended in all cases.

But Bill Steimer, UNC-C's attorney, said he saw no problems with the judicial system. He said the system allowed students to appeal a decision, main-

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Nate Pendley (center), the lawyer representing former ASG President Nick Miris, hands information to media representatives in front of the Wake County Courthouse on Monday. Miris (right) discussed details about his suspension from UNC-Charlotte.

DTH-VICTORIA ECKENRODE

THE PARTY OF THE MILLENNIUM

Students are gearing up for what could be the biggest and wildest New Year's celebration ever.

By STUART CRAMPTON
Staff Writer

Ten, nine, eight ... A few seconds before the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, something strange and electrifying will descend upon every city and town in the world.

The fall of the famous ball in New York City's Times Square and similar flamboyant monstrosities across the globe have always triggered screams, sloppy first (and last) kisses and muddled renditions of "Auld Lang Syne."

But this year's celebration is expected to be marked with even more indulgence and more parties than ever due to the much-hyped turn of the century.

And while the next millennium, according to the Gregorian calendar, does not begin until 2001, Y2K-charged partygoers are uninhibited from ringing in the third millennium.

Towering over the inevitable Times Square mob, the traditional lighted globe will be replaced by an 800-pound Waterford crystal ball. A New

Year's institution, the ball has been dropping over Times Square for the past 95 years.

But even as some plan to set new records of excess on Dec. 31, others are preparing for another side of the big night.

It appears the threat of Y2K has had some effect on students' itineraries for New Year's Eve.

Freshman Allyson Lippert from Mooresville said that to ensure "Y2K survival," her family transformed their vacation mountain house in western North Carolina into a well-stocked compound. She said the few days with her family at "the compound" will make for a memorable holiday.

"My family's been planning this since Christmas (1998)," said Lippert between laughs. "It's a little psycho, but better safe than sorry."

"I'll be fun though, and I think we have enough extra canned goods to support a small Third World country."

But long before Dick Clark was designated "master of ceremonies" for the holiday or a computer bug threatened the festivities, people used the holiday to celebrate the common theme of "out with the old, in with the new."

In ancient Rome, the first day of the

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When the Clock Strikes 12

Several cities are hosting parties for people to come and party like it's 1999 and 2000. Many have special activities to differentiate this year's party from past New Year's Eves.

New York City

Times Square 2000 will be the largest New Year's Eve celebration in the event's 95-year history. Planned events include music, special effects, costumed dancers and actors and a special Waterford crystal ball that will drop at midnight.

Raleigh

First Night Raleigh, a non-alcoholic celebration, features local artists and the N.C. Symphony. A parade will take place through downtown during the night.

San Francisco

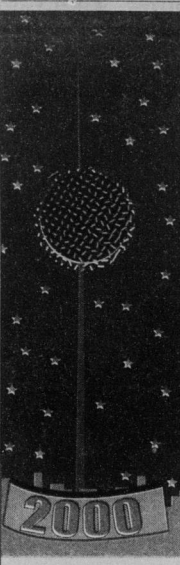
At midnight, an olive will drop into the world's largest martini glass over Union Square at the Westin St. Francis Hotel.

Washington D.C.

The "Main Street Millennium" boasts two stages with musical acts and food. Also in Washington will be a block-party held on the Mall between the White House and Smithsonian.

New Orleans

Certain bars and parties are hosting their own parties, including the L.A. Masonic Temple that promises dancing and "Galactic Funk" along with gourmet food and dining.



DTH/MEGAN SHARKEY

Officials to Grapple With Tuition Plans

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
Assistant State & National Editor

UNC-system officials will attempt to come up with a way to reconcile tuition proposals with faculty salary needs over the next few weeks.

UNC-system President Molly Broad has said she will work to keep tuition as low as possible and pursue funding from the N.C. General Assembly.

But it is still unclear how five campus-initiated requests for increased tuition will be combined with the Board of Governors' annual budget request to a state legislative committee in February.

The BOG has the ability to act on tuition or salaries without acting on the other. Broad said individual campuses had until Dec. 15 to file tuition requests with the system.

The Board of Trustees proposed a \$1,500 tuition increase to fund faculty salaries in October. N.C. State University, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Charlotte and East Carolina University have since considered raising tuition.

Broad said she would consider the requests and make a recommendation on each to the BOG in January.

"What we are going to be taking on over the next month is putting all the pieces together in a way that is both fiscally responsible and politically feasible," Broad said.

Gary Barnes, UNC vice president of program assessment, said the BOG would participate in a workshop in January outlining the tuition issue.

In addition to considering requests from individual campuses, the BOG will make an across-the-board tuition recommendation for all UNC schools.

The full board will then reconcile the systemwide tuition recommendation with the individual campus requests.

Student BOG member Jeff Nieman serves on the task force that will formulate the systemwide plan.

Nieman said he expected the task force would suggest an increase of less than 4 percent this year, compared to 4.9 percent last year.

Barnes said the board would officially vote on both the faculty salary issue and tuition in February.

In addition to the salary study at UNC-CH, which prompted the tuition

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2000 Just Another Year, Number Crunchers Say

By ALICIA GADDDY
Staff Writer

With only 24 days left until the year 2000, many are planning millennial celebrations despite evidence that the year 2000 does not mark the beginning of the millennium.

Mathematics Professor Michael Schlessinger said a millennium was considered to be a group of 1,000 consecutive years. Because the first millennium began with the year one and lasted through 1000, the current millennium, which began in 1001, would last through 2000. The third millennium would not begin until January 2001, he said.

The new century and the new decade will also not officially begin until 2001. "It's just common sense," Schlessinger said.

"They started counting with year one, then 2,000 years later, it's 2001."

Still, Schlessinger said he expected

more problems and celebrations on New Year's Eve 1999 than on New Year's Eve 2000. "I'll be watching out for Y2K emergencies this year and not next year," he said.

Sociology Professor Kathleen Harris said that although the new millennium would not begin until 2001, the year 2000 would seem more important than 2001 to most people. "I think people have this common knowledge that the end of 1999 is this huge change and sort of a new beginning," she said.

Harris said people would celebrate this year for one of two reasons.

"Either they don't know that the new millennium begins in 2001, or they just don't care," she said. "It seems to be momentous to be ending the 1900s."

Statistics Professor Douglas Kelly also said people were more concerned with the numerical year change than with the

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3 Football Assistants Lose Jobs

By T. NOLAN HAYES
Sport/Saturday Editor

North Carolina football coach Carl Torbush held on to his job despite his team's disappointing 3-8 record in 1999. But three of Torbush's assistants weren't so fortunate.

Torbush announced Monday afternoon that he had fired offensive coordinator Steve Marshall, quarterback coach Jim Hoffer and running backs coach Ken Mack.

"I'm evaluated on wins and losses, and I've got to evaluate our staff and football program on production," Torbush said in a telephone conference call. "We have not been as productive as we would have liked for a number of reasons, and a lot of it has been beyond each coach's control."

"But at the same time, I feel like for us to get to where we need to be, that was something I needed to do at this time."

Torbush said he met with each of his assistants individually Sunday to let

them know what he planned to do. Hoffer, who was reached at home for comment Monday afternoon, said he had not expected to be fired.

"It always comes as a surprise," Hoffer said. "So, no, it was not expected."

Marshall and Mack could not be reached for comment. Hoffer said he had spoken with Marshall and Mack, but he declined to say what they talked about.

Torbush said no timetable existed as to when he would hire new assistants. Rumors are swirling that former N.C. State head coach Mike O'Cain, who was fired last month after leading the Wolfpack to a 6-6 season, is a top candidate to fill Marshall's vacated offensive coordinator position.

Torbush declined to reveal whether he had made any progress in finding replacements.

"I'm not getting into any discussions on who I've talked to or not talked to," Torbush said. "Right now, I'm trying to decide and evaluate, see who's out there, and see who fits what we have the

ability to do and gives us the best chance to be successful.

"And I think it's very important that we are successful as quickly as we can be."

The Tar Heels saw their offensive proficiency plummet in 1999, in large part because of a season-ending injury to quarterback Ronald Curry.

Curry went down for the season in UNC's fifth game with a ruptured Achilles tendon. Backup Luke Huard missed time with an injured shoulder, and safety-turned-quarterback Antwon Black missed the last four games with mononucleosis.

Tailback Domanique Williams ended up as the team's starter, guiding the Tar Heels to their season-closing wins against N.C. State and Duke.

UNC ranked 107th of 114 Division I teams in total offense (276.5 yards per game) and tied for 102nd in scoring (16.9 points per game).

Torbush said the decision to fire

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INSIDE Tuesday

New Faces in Town

Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council were sworn into office last night and Carrboro's Board of Aldermen will follow suit. To read more about the lives and interests of the members of the governing boards in the towns, See Page 11.

Closing Time

This is the last issue of The Daily Tar Heel this semester, as the staff must join the rest of campus in bracing for exams and heading back home for Winter Break. Publication will resume Jan. 12, the first day of spring classes. Until then, everyone, hang on tight and have the best damn New Year's ever. 2000, HERE WE COME!

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Low 50s.
Wednesday: Sunny,
Low 60s.

These are the times to remember, 'cause they will not last forever.

Billy Joel