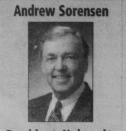
10Monday, January 24, 2000

Naming Who Could Be Next

The Daily Tar Heel



President, University of Alabama

By MATTHEW B. DEES tate & National Edi

A former colleague of University of Alabama President Andrew Sorens says his experience with academic medcal centers and administrative prowess make Sorensen a prime candidate for

the UNC chancellorship. The News & Observer listed Sorensen as a possible chancellor candidate in a Dec. 10 article.

Following the article, Sorensen released a statement saying he remained committed to the University of Alabama but stopped short of completely withdrawing from the race.

"I am honored to be among the nomnees for chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but I believe media accounts concerning finalists for that position may be prema-" Sorensen said.

"I remain enthusiastic about the work being done here at the University of The ambiguous statement left room

for speculation. Dr. Alfred Sommer, dean of Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health, worked with Sorensen for three years when he was executive director of the AIDS Institute at the JHU Medical Institutions and professor of health pol icy and management at the JHU School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Sommer said Sorensen's experience with academic medical centers would be a major asset to the University. In fact, the UNC search committee

listed this trait as a key characteristic it would like to see in the next chancellor. The committee included a statement in its ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education that read:

"Leading candidates preferably will have served in major leadership roles in higher education, ideally in an institution that includes a major academic ealth center."

This experience will likely be even more important as UNC Hospitals finalizes its merger with Rex Hospitals. Officials announced Friday that they

oped to have the deal completed by late February.

Sommer said Sorensen was keenly aware of the problems facing university medical centers, particularly the prob-lems that led UNC to seek a partnership with a nonacademic care provider.

"It takes someone who understands the enormous pressure that the University hospitals are under because they have to compete with community itals," Sommer said.

"This trend is tending to squeeze out the academic part of academic medical centers because they have to compete

GET A LEG UP ON THE

on price alone."

mmer also said Sorensen worked hard to cultivate relationships with leg-islators, which would be crucial for a university struggling to find ways to fund higher faculty pay and mounting construction and renovation costs. Sommer said, "From all of those per-

spectives, he is the kind of person I would want to have as a chancellor." Sommer added that Sorensen seemed

content with his post at the University of Alabama, which he took in 1996, and had not expressed interest in leaving.

The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa is the flagship institution of the 16-campus University of Alabama system.

Sorensen came to the University of Alabama from the University of Florida, where he served from 1990 as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

He previously served as the director of the School of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst before moving to Johns Hopkins.

He has also served as a visiting facul-ty member at the Harvard University School of Medicin

Sorensen holds a bachelor's degree in ethics and masters and doctoral degrees in medical sociology from Yale University.

He also earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Illinois and a master of public health degree from the University of Michigan. At Florida, Sorensen received a

University of Florida Student Government Award for outstanding contributions to student government. Sorensen could not be reached for comment



BY KATIE ABEL University Editor

As an agenda-setter with extensive fund-raising experience, outgoing University of Chicago President Hugo Sonnenschein could be a likely candidate for UNC's ninth chancellor

Sources close to the search told The Daily Tar Heel that committee members had visited Chicago at the end of the fall semester.

Sonnenschein announced this summer he was retiring from his seven-year stint as Chicago's president to resume teaching. He will officially step down as the university's 11th president at the end

with a strong academic background. "He is a world-class scholar and economist," he said. "He is a great, great man.

of June

tive role.

Wright said he had no knowledge of Sonnenschein's future plans, but that he was a very effective leader during his time at both Princeton and Chicag

Perhaps a large public University

amidst a time of growth and change could convince him to make a move to

the South and remain in an administra-

Sonnenschein became the 11th presi-

dent of the University of Chicago in

1993, after leaving his post as Princeton

University's provost. Thomas Wright, Princeton's vice

president described Sonnenschein as a very forward-thinking administrator

He has also served as dean of the School of the Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sonnenschein is often characterized as a fast-moving agenda-setter, much like the hard-nosed leadership style that defined Hooker.

That type of leadership style was one of the same qualities that the 1995 search committee admired in Hooker.

But like Hooker, Sonnenschein often garnered opposition from students and faculty who felt he was ignoring their

In April, more than 1,300 students gathered to protest Sonnenschein's change in Chicago's core curriculum after he reduced the university's required classes from 21 to 15.

Under Sonnenschein, the school has drawn national attention for allegedly altering academic requirements to attract a larger pool of applicants. Controversy has also brewed in

recent years over Sonnenschein's push to modernize and expand a university that is known for its traditional atmo-

But as UNC attempts to thrust forward with modernization and expansion plans of its own, Sonnenschein's track record could prove to be one of his most impressive qualities.

The search committee has declared that any UNC candidate must have a strong fund-raising background, and Sonnenschein has a strong advantage over other candidates in this area.

By the end of his third year at Chicago, the university completed a \$676 million campaign to support research, student aid and facilities.

The university's endowment fund has also increased 75 percent since onnenschein took the helm.

Sonnenschein could not be reached for comment.

Seton Hall Seeks Clean Post-fire Image

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. - Within hours of last week's residence hall fire that killed three students and injured 62, Seton Hall's public relations team was holding strategy meetings to discuss preserving the university's reputation, according to a published report. At least one public relations firm was

contacted within 24 hours of the fire to prepare a plan to deflect charges that the university had been negligent in its fire safety training, the Star-Ledger of Newark reported Sunday. Seton Hall officials said in a news

release that they hired a marketing communications firm one day after the fire to poll colleges and universities about residence hall sprinkler systems. The poll, which surveyed 37 colleges in even states at random, showed 45 percent of campus residence halls were not equipped with sprinklers. Despite the public relations firm's hir-ing, Seton Hall spokeswoman Lisan

Lisaider told the newspaper it's too soon to worry about the school's image when five students remain hospitalized. "It's too early for us to be thinking

about that," Grider said. The residence hall where Wednesday's fire started was built before laws required sprinklers in new campus residence halls.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., said Sunday she planned to intro-duce legislation to require sprinklers be installed in all campus residence halls. "You have to protect them where

they are. We can't count on them evac said Dan Jones, fire chief in uating, Chapel Hill, who has led a national campaign to install sprinklers in campus housing since a 1996 fraternity fire killed five people at UNC. While most uni-

versity handbooks detail fire procedures and most residence hall staff hold fire safety talks, few students pay attention, Jones said. "Experience tells me that 18- to 24-

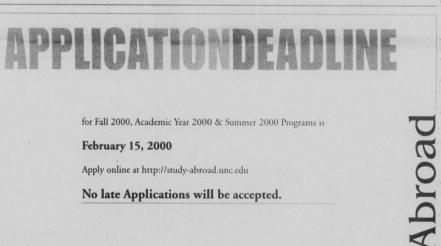
ear-olds have a sense of immortality,' he said. "You're just not going to get them to pay close attention to safety lessons.

At Seton Hall, many students said they didn't leave when the alarm sound-ed early Wednesday because they thought it was another false alarm – there have been 17 this school year.

At Princeton University, undergraduates get fire education booklets, two seminars a year, four inspections and two fire drills, said spokesman Justin Harmon. Harmon said, "But you know, an alarm goes off and some kid is in

the middle of writing a paper and he doesn't want to be bothered because he's sure it's somebody's toaster.'

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