

The Daily Tar Heel

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Hit-and-Run Driver Strikes UNC Worker

By JAMILA VERNON
Staff Writer

University police are still searching for the driver in a hit-and-run accident involving a UNC employee, the second incident to occur recently on traffic-heavy Manning Drive.

Sarah Katherine McCarty, 26, a designer for the Alumni Publication, was struck Wednesday morning by a white utility van while crossing a marked pedestrian crosswalk near the Craige Parking Deck. McCarty was taken to the emergency room at UNC Hospitals and was released Wednesday.

McCarty suffered from a broken wrist, contusions on the left side of her body and a bump on the back of her head, said her co-worker Lisa Smith, online coordinator for the Alumni Association Office.

Smith stayed with McCarty while she was admitted to the hospital. "She was shaken, understandably. She had no memory of what had happened in the accident," Smith said.

Hospital officials said McCarty was in fair condition as of Wednesday afternoon.

The incident marks the second pedestrian accident on Manning Drive during the last three months.

Fusayoshi Matsukawa, a postdoctoral fellow for the dental school's research center, was killed in a November accident when he was hit by a driver who failed to yield the right-of-way in a Manning Drive crosswalk.

"This is another example of the need to practice

safety measures on behalf of pedestrians and motorists," said University Police Chief Derek Poarch. Poarch said the driver was believed to be a 5-foot-11-inch black male, in his mid to late 30s, weighing approximately 200 pounds.

He was also described as having dreadlocks, and wearing a red, blue and green toboggan, Poarch said. He said there were three officers assigned to the case who were following numerous leads.

"The department is pursuing the case vigorously," he said. "All cars should travel within the speed limit, stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and make sure all traffic has stopped before crossing."

But Smith said she felt more drastic measures needed to be taken to protect the public safety.

"Something has to be done, an elevated walkway, a stop light, something. People drive way too fast and don't even stop or slow down," she said.

Following Matsukawa's death, University Police intensified pedestrian safety efforts in early January as Poarch assigned two officers to work overtime shifts in heavily traveled campus areas.

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy also formed a pedestrian safety committee to address more effective ways to protect the University community.

But Wednesday's accident triggered alarm across campus again.

Smith said, "It's despicable to have someone hit (McCarty) and drive off."

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HOW BAD DO YOU WANT IT?



DTH/MEREDITH LEE

Sophomore Sasha Astrakhan douses sophomore Pat Doyle with chocolate syrup during the second annual "What Would You Do for Dook Tickets?" contest Wednesday. The two exemplified the extremes students were willing to go to in the frigid morning temperatures. See story Page 4.

Morrison Fire Sparks Stiffer Penalties

By HARMONY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

After the fifth fire in three months struck Morrison Residence Hall early Wednesday morning, University officials are now enforcing stricter fire evacuation penalties.

Students failing to evacuate residence halls during fire alarms will now face misdemeanor charges and fines.

Firefighters responded to the alarm at about 12:45 a.m. Wednesday and found a couch on fire in a ninth-floor lounge.

Estimating damage at \$5,000, University Police Chief Derek Poarch said the fire was deemed suspicious but was unrelated to the four fires in Morrison last semester.

Sophomore Daniel Sarrell, who was arrested Nov. 22 in conjunction with the fourth Morrison fire, remains in court

custody at a 24-hour treatment facility.

Poarch said University Police appreciated the residents who did leave the building, but those who did not leave have fueled concerns for improved safety measures.

Firefighters at the scene saw students who failed to evacuate the building peering out of bathroom windows, Poarch said. "In the future, persons who are identified as having failed to evacuate

will be issued a criminal citation by my officers and will be referred to the Honor Court through Student Affairs."

Failure to leave a building when a fire alarm goes off is a misdemeanor according to N.C. law.

Students who violate the law will be issued a written ticket with a minimum \$10 fine plus court costs, Poarch said.

See FIRE, Page 9

TAR HEEL FANS, GET HYPE!

Fed up with the best seats in the Smith Center going to old alumni who can't cheer, much less get up? Tired of getting a nosebleed every time you see a hoops game? Had it with being known nationwide as "wine and cheese?"

Here's your chance to do something about it. Take today's Opinions page to tonight's Duke-UNC game and hold it high throughout the game.

The protest message on Page 16 - "Students Yell Louder Than Money" - has been brought to you by The Daily Tar Heel's editorial board.

Let a national television audience know you're not going to take bad seats sitting down. It's time the old folks gave students the chance to really cheer on their Tar Heels.

Code Case Decision Delayed

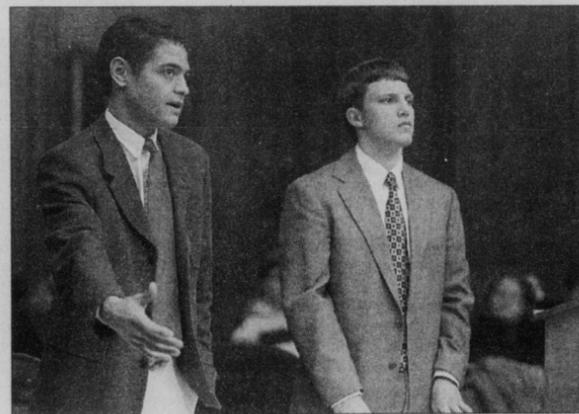
Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt defended his removal of the USSA referendum to the Student Supreme Court.

By KIM MINUGH
Assistant University Editor

After more than two hours of discussion and debate Wednesday night, UNC's Student Congress Speaker must wait until Friday for the Student Supreme Court to make a decision regarding a constitutional discrepancy.

Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt was brought to court by four plaintiffs after he removed a controversial referendum from the Feb. 15 student elections ballot.

The referendum called for a \$3



DTH/MILLER PEARSALL

Congress Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt addresses the Student Supreme Court as Counsel Drew Hayward waits for their reaction.

increase in student fees to fund UNC's membership in the United States Student Association, a lobbying organization for higher education.

The referendum was put before Congress and then slated for the ballot in December, when Congress voted 12-10 in favor of the referendum.

Kleinschmidt defended his action by

citing Title II, Article IV, Section 166 of the code, which states that any amendment to the constitution is subject to a two-thirds majority vote in Congress.

An inflation of student fees would necessitate such an amendment to the constitution.

See TRIAL, Page 9

University to Consider Making Up Snow Days

By JONATHAN MOSELEY
Staff Writer

As the snow melts from the January storms that pounded North Carolina, the UNC-Chapel Hill chancellor and the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor will meet Friday to decide if and when students will make up the three lost class days.

After Duke officials announced their plan to hold classes on weekends, UNC-CH administrators say they plan to involve students in their decision on how to make up missed snow days.

Exact scheduling plans for the UNC system have yet to be determined, said Judith Pulley, UNC associate vice president for academic affairs.

"We have a policy of 75 days every semester," she said. "The campus leaders will now be looking at ways they can reach those 75 days."

East Carolina University was held to the 75-day standard last semester in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd and made up its days on Saturdays. ECU missed about 10 days and made up five. The rest were excused by a unanimous vote of the Board of Governors.

As students spread rumors that Spring Break might be cut short, UNC-CH's chancellor and provost plan to ask the student body for input and approval on ways to make up the class time.

"The chancellor is calling a meeting with the student advisory committee - a fairly large group of students," said Dick Richardson, UNC-CH's provost. The meeting will be held Friday at 2 p.m. and will provide both administrators and students with a good idea of the

University's options, Richardson said. "I feel confident that the chancellor and the student advisory committee are going to have a good dialogue," said Student Body President Nic Heinke.

Meanwhile, Duke administrators plan to make up lost snow days on the weekends of the next three months.

"After the provost talked with the deans, it was clear too much work had been missed, and it had to be made up," said Al Rossiter, director of the Duke News Service.

After considering making up the days on three different occasions - Spring Break, a two-day reading period and Saturdays - the provost and academic deans decided weekend classes were the best option, Rossiter said.

Duke administrators were also careful to avoid religious holidays.

Despite the added workload, students seem to be understanding of the schedule.

"It was important for the provost to provide a block

of time so that professors could make up the time if they needed to," said Jeremy Huff, spokesman for Duke's Student Government Association. "I think everybody knows it wasn't safe to go to class, and now this is the only way to make up class, so it's OK."

Kelly Atkinson, a Duke sophomore from Raleigh, said she thought the weekend schedule would be difficult for students and faculty, even if it was the most effective solution. Atkinson said, "(The schedule) is going to be a hassle, but based on the options they had, it may have been the best option."

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Group Revises Drug Policy

By ALEXANDRA MOLAIRE
Assistant University Editor

After months of debate, a committee voted Wednesday to clarify the wording of UNC-Chapel Hill's drug policy, broadening the scope of drug-related offenses with which students can be charged.

The Committee on Student Conduct decided to include in the policy as a chargeable offense, "possession of any object containing any remnants or residue of illegal drugs."

Under current policy, students can only be charged with "illegal possession of any controlled substance identified in

Schedules I or II of North Carolina General Statutes 90-89 and 90-90."

The committee also voted to update the policy by clarifying the definition of possession. It states that, "possession shall mean the actual physical possession of any illegal substance, or the ability to exercise control or dominion over any illegal substance."

Under existing policy, students are only convicted for "illegal possession of any controlled substance identified in Schedule III through VI of the North Carolina General Statutes 90-91 through 90-94." The proposed changes would alter the drug provisions in the Code of Student Conduct.

In past meetings, members debated whether to include the words "paraphernalia" and "drug use." They ultimately decided to use clearer wording.

"We wanted to make the statement broader rather than calling it specifically drug paraphernalia," committee chairwoman Beverly Foster said.

Committee members did not want to make the wording too restrictive and rule out objects that, in the future, could be considered forms of drug paraphernalia, she said.

The word "use" was omitted because members did not want to deter students

See DRUGS, Page 9

Carolina, Speak Out!

A weekly DTH online poll

What was the most pivotal event in 20th century black history?



Go to
www.unc.edu/dth
to cast your vote.

INSIDE Thursday

Tonight's home contest with No. 3 Duke marks the halfway point in the ACC season for North Carolina. For a full preview of the Tar Heels and the Blue Devils and a recap of how UNC got here, see Page 13.

MIDSEASON REPORT

Get Your Tickets

Bracelet distribution will continue today at the Smith Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for games against Wake Forest, Virginia and Georgia Tech. The chosen number will be printed Friday in the DTH. Ticket lineup will be at noon Saturday. Contact the Carolina Athletic Association at 962-4300 with questions.

Joanna Howell Fund

Applications are now available at the DTH front office for the Joanna Howell Fund, which honors a DTH staffer who died in the 1996 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house fire. The fund includes a \$250 grant for an in-depth story about an issue that affects the University. Contact Managing Editor Cate Doty at 962-4103 with questions.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Low 50s.
Friday: Sunny;
High 40s.

Great sport begins at a point where it has ceased to be healthy.

Bertolt Brecht