The Baily Tar Heel

The concerns prompted Yale

University to ask that all of

its class notes be removed

While the rapid growth of the Internet offers endless resources for stu-

dents, it has also raised concerns among

college professors seeking to protect

their intellectual property rights. Professors at colleges and universities

nationwide are divided over allowing

their lecture notes to be published over the Internet, specifically at versity.com.

Web site benefits students by supple-

menting their own notes. Don Loeb, philosophy professor at the University of Vermont, said he did not personally endorse the Web site but

"I'm probably more sympathetic to the students," Loeb said. "It's all very

new and people get nervous about it."² But he said publishing class notes over the Internet raised several red flags.

He said professors had to be watchful

of notes that were grossly inaccurate and

those that were copied word for word,

told his students how to find it.

But versity.com officials say their

from the company's site.

By GAVIN OFF

Staff Write

Faculty Wary of Security, Schools Opt for Web Degrees Accuracy on Versity.com

The Internet degree trend keeps growing, but UNC-CH has no immediate plans to offer totally online degrees.

By ALICIA GADDY Staff Writer

The University of Oregon has become the latest college in the nation to allow students to complete entire degree programs over the World Wide Web.

And while UNC-system schools and N.C. community colleges house such programs, UNC-Chapel Hill has yet to hop on the Internet degree bandwagon. Oregon's master's degree in applied information management will become solely Web-based in the fall semester.

Academic program manager Linda Ettinger said the program would be a huge step for Oregon's Learning Anywhere, Anytime Program. "The University of Oregon hasn't offered any fully online degrees before," Ettinger said. She said the school would accept only 15 people into the program for its trial run so it could be closely monitored. "This is a relatively new approach to learning," she said. "So we're consid-ering that we're still learning, too."

But Ettinger said Web-based degrees were common. "There are a lot of them that already exist across the nation.

within the UNC-system.

"Developing complete degree pro-grams for distance education would cer-tainly be a priority for us," Sadler said. Though all existing UNC-system

Web degrees are masters programs, he said ECU would extend this in the fall. "East Carolina is planning to start an undergraduate baccalaureate program

in industrial technology," he said. And officials at N.C. technical schools said they had degree programs which used mainly Internet classes

Karen Kornegay, Wake Technical Community College representative, said the school did not offer totally Internetbased degrees, but the popularity of some courses could soon yield e-degrees in those areas. "In some curricula, it's possible to take a majority of courses online," Kornegay said. She said North Carolina's 58 com-

unity colleges would soon consolidate their online classes.

"The N.C. community college systemas a whole has developed a distance learning community," she said.

She said 10 classes would be offered in the Virtual Learning Community this fall

Kornegay said North Carolina's community col-leges had been working with Web classes for the last few years, with more than 10,000

"The community colleges have

ent subject areas," she said. June Blackwelder, Friday Center repesentative, said Carolina Courses Online offered 17 Internet classes that were open to undergraduates. She said Web masters programs could start soon at UNC-Cl⁻. "But there's nothing close

Jean Richardson, president of the University of Vermont Faculty Senate, said it was these concerns that prompt ed her to request that her notes be taken off versity.com. She said notes posted from her class were very inaccurate. "I don't feel angry," Richardson said. "I have an enormous legal concern. I do research on cutting edge environmen

University have recently expressed con-

cern with the inaccuracy of notes posted

at versity.com, prompting them to request all of Yale's notes be removed

from the Web site.

I do research on cutting edge tal science, and I share my findings with the students before they are published." University of Vermont Faculty Senate

She said last semester students were posting notes without their professors' consents in 70 classes. But Richardson said that this semester professors made their own decisions on whether or not to allow their notes to be copied. Richardson also said students did not

push themselves with their classwork when the notes were simply handed to them. "I'm a very good professor, and my experience is when students rely too

"The best judge of the quality of notes is the professors themselves," Keesler said. "I would encourage the professor to contact us (concerning inaccuracies). "I don't feel angry. I have most universities had a pleasant rela an enormous legal concern. tionship with versity.com "The great majority of our

well," Richardson said.

But Jennifer Keesler, manager of

campus relations at versity.com, said

notes on the Internet were intended to

be supplemental notes to help students.

notes would not affect students if they

were used in conjunction with others.

said unknown inaccuracies in the

She also said

contact with pro-

fessors at universi-

environmental science ... JEAN RICHARDSON

where there is some concern, we are open to speaking with and working with rsity and professo But Richardson said the fear of stolen

intellectual work was too great for her to allow her class notes to be posted. "For a professor, it suppresses the very thing we're hired to do, which is share our scholarship with the students.

The State & National Editor can be

ties is positive," Keesler said. "In the few cases

And some of these programs are

said UNC-system schools offered Web degrees, though none were at UNC-CH. "We have six completely online degree programs," he said. He said the programs originated at East Carolina University and had since spread to Western Carolina University, Winston-Salem State University N.C. State University

N.C. State University.

Sadler said the programs were popu-lar with nontraditional students, like middle-aged parents. "They're general ly getting positive student ratings and have received positive ratings from outside evaluatio

Although UNC-CH does not have edegrees, Sadler said they were a possibility in the future.

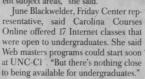
"It certainly is "This is a relatively new within the power of any school at Chapel Hill to develop a completely online pro-gram," he said. He said such ini tiatives would be

welcomed by administrators.

approach to learning. So we're considering that we're still learning, too.' LINDA ETTINGER University of Oregon Official

taking courses in 1998-1999.

offered over 250 courses from 68 differ-



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