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Provost Search Set To Resume

The search committee is looking for a candidate in line with the ideals laid out by the chancellor-elect.

By KATY NELSON
Staff Writer

Administrative wheels have been turning to revitalize the search for UNC's next provost, a task that tops Chancellor-elect James Moeser's agenda.

Provost Search Committee Chairman Jeffrey Houpt said the committee would reconvene in early May after an almost yearlong hiatus.

The late Chancellor Michael Hooker created the committee last April after current Provost Dick Richardson announced plans to step down this June.

The committee will discuss the search's new timeline and whether previously considered candidates fit Moeser's vision for a provost.

Houpt said an Atlanta search firm was in the process of informing past candidates of the resumed search and identifying candidates who were still interested in the position.

The search has been on hold since last summer, after the committee decided that a permanent chancellor's input in the provost selection process was crucial.

"We knew that an incoming chancellor would want to name his own team," said committee member Jane Stine. Moeser will have many opportunities to restructure his administration with input into other top appointments, such as vice chancellor for finance.

Moeser told the DTH last week he relished the opportunity to build his own team by having input in the provost selection process.

He said he wanted a scientist at the academic top of his administration to balance his knowledge of the arts.

"All things being equal, I would prefer someone who is a scientist since I am an artist. I don't want to rule out a humanist, but I want someone who complements my perspective," Moeser said.

He said the interview process could resume in early June. If a replacement for Richardson is not found by June 30, an interim provost will be named.

Richardson has served as provost since April 1996, after having worked as interim provost since June 21, 1995.

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UNC Discrimination Case Pending

By HARMONY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A judge will decide in either May or June whether a discrimination lawsuit against UNC Hospitals will go to trial, attorneys involved in the lawsuit said Wednesday.

The sixth and final day of a hearing included closing statements by both attorneys in the case of hospital employee Robin Smith, who filed suit against UNC Hospitals in October 1999 claiming race, sex and age discrimination.

Smith, a 44-year-old black woman, was denied a promotion last June when a new supervisory position as a Level 3 medical lab technologist opened in the

histology laboratory where she worked, a lab which deals with the study of tissue samples.

Smith has served as a hospital employee for more than 23 years. She continues to hold her current position as a Level 2 medical lab technologist.

Civil rights attorney Alan McSurely, who represents Smith in the case, accused Administrative Director of Surgical Pathology Howard Parker of discriminating against her when he gave the job to Alberto Basabe, a 39-year-old man of Japanese and Central American descent.

McSurely claimed the friendship between Basabe and Parker, both Apex residents, was also a factor in the pro-

motion decision.

But hospital attorney Kathryn Thomas claimed Basabe was promoted over Smith only because he was more qualified for the position.

"There was a legitimate, nondiscriminatory basis for (UNC Hospitals') decision," she said in her closing statement.

According to Basabe's application for the position, he had more than 10 years histology experience prior to seeking the job. He has worked at UNC Hospitals since 1996.

Sandra Ratliff, a hospital administrative director who interviewed applicants for the position, also testified that Smith's race was not a factor in the promotion decision.

But Smith and another rebuttal witness both claimed their race and sex affected the decision.

Mary Parker, a 62-year-old black woman who also works in the histology lab, said she had considered applying for the position but was told by Howard Parker that she could not.

Mary Parker said she did not question what Howard Parker told her.

"I did not want to push the issue too much because I didn't want to be considered a troublemaker," she said.

Smith and Mary Parker both testified that they had heard Howard Parker did not want a woman supervising the lab.

In her closing statement, Thomas argued that Basabe was simply more

qualified for the position.

But Smith disagreed.

"In general, the hospital has put on a lot of lies - lying about the case and how (the hiring) was done. They know it, and I know it."

To provide ample time for review of court transcripts, both attorneys must submit written arguments to the judge by May 22. According to N.C. law, the judge has 45 days after closing arguments are presented to review the evidence and make a decision.

Jason Arthurs and Geoff Wessel contributed to this article. The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



LIVING WITH FEAR

Generation Y Grows Up With Gunshots and Gore As Society Buckles Down in the Face of Violence

By KAITLIN GURNEY
Senior Writer

When most college students were beginning their elementary school days in the 1980s, violence was a far-off concept revolving around inner-city crack cocaine battles and downtown Los Angeles gang wars between the Crips and the Bloods.

Today, though, violence is the routine subject of video games, rap music, movies, television and nightly news shows that highlight high-profile shootings in small towns from Jonesboro, Ark., to Littleton, Colo.

Violence has seeped into today's culture slowly yet dramatically, triggering national attention on an American public many say has become immune to the bloodshed.

And looking for someone or something to blame, Americans are voting for strengthened gun control laws and speaking out against a perceived emphasis on violence in the media.

But belying the gore-laden culture, the streets are actually becoming safer.

In 1999, the Justice Department's National Crime Victimization Survey found the lowest crime rates since the survey began in 1973.

After a fourfold jump in violent crimes like rape, robbery and assault in the 1970s and 1980s, the crime rate stabilized and has fallen in the late 1990s.

Since 1993, the year Durham had the dubious distinction of being the murder capital of North Carolina, the murder rate has dropped 34 percent nationally, rape has decreased 17 percent and robbery has declined 35 percent.

But the drops in numbers haven't eradicated a widespread American fear - and a national desire to protect against the worst.

Seven out of 10 Americans think a school shooting could happen in their communities, the Justice Policy Institute reported last week.

President Clinton held a summit on youth violence after the Columbine High School shootings, despite the 56 percent drop in the youth homicide rate.

The rare but well-publicized massacres at school and at work have increased the perception of violence, causing people to ignore the drop in day-to-day crime statistics, said Jack Richman, a professor in the School of Social Work and co-editor of an upcoming book titled "The Context of Violence: Resilience, Risk and Protection" with fellow social work Professor Mark Fraser.

"Columbine and Jonesboro have shown us that violence isn't an inner-city problem of the Crips fighting the Bloods," Richman said.

"The violence is in our own backyards, in our suburbs and rural neighborhoods. The context of violence has changed, and we don't feel safe anymore outside of our own cul-de-sac communities.

"Even though there's a lower violent crime rate, there's a greater fear level."

But if kids and parents don't feel safe, regardless of low crime rates, the government needs to address the problem, said Joanne McDaniel, associate director of the Center for the Prevention of School Violence, based in Raleigh. Schools are addressing the climate of fear through physical measures like more metal detectors and an increased police presence, she said, but also through social measures like encouraging parental involvement in students' lives.

Much of the greater perception of violence stems from the culture of violence created by the media, McDaniel said.

"Rap, video games and movies create a vast matrix of violence variables that most people aren't affected by, but for others is the making of a deadly combination," she said. "Our lifestyles have changed in the past few decades, and the magnitude of violent mate-



Part seven of a 10-part series examining the issues that will face our generation in the coming millennium.



ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES PHARR

rial available is enormous. Kids can immerse themselves in bomb-making materials on the Internet 24 hours a day if they want to."

Violence sells music, video games, movies and TV advertising.

Not only is the content of some rap music full of boasts and

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TORBUSH VERSUS VIOLENCE



DTH-MEREDITH LEE

Carl Torbush, UNC's football coach, spoke in the Pit on Wednesday in support of the White Ribbon Campaign. The weeklong campaign calls for the prevention of violence against women. Torbush also talked of the dangers of alcohol abuse acting as a cause for physical abuse against women. See story Page 9.

Greek Houses Earn Perfect Fire Scores

By JAMILA VERNON
Staff Writer

UNC fraternities and sororities set a new record when 11 houses received perfect inspections by the Chapel Hill Fire Department this spring.

The fire marshal inspected 33 houses for violations of town fire codes before Spring Break.

"It's very difficult - most businesses don't even get a perfect score," said Ron Binder, director of Greek affairs.

Chapel Hill Fire Marshal Caprice Melon said that for a house to attain a perfect score, there cannot be any violations of the fire code. "Some (examples of code violations) would be exit lights that are burned out, smoke detectors with no batteries and trash blocking access to exits," Melon said.

Binder said the average for each house was three violations, an improve-

ment from the prior average of 10.

Melon said inspections were typically completed twice a year, one each semester. But in the meantime, each house selects its own in-house fire marshal, who makes sure the building meets fire code standards.

Sophomore Jeremy Hill is the in-house marshal for Tau Epsilon Phi, one fraternity to receive a perfect score.

"I have to make sure we're ready for inspections and are fire safety compliant," Hill said. "I don't have to do everything but I make sure everybody else knows what's going on. I also organize drills and (self) inspections."

But while 22 houses did not meet town fire codes, Binder said they were not far off the mark. "Most of them were pretty good - most had two violations," he said. "We're trying to get everybody

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INSIDE Thursday

Let's Go to the Movies

Locals will soon have another option for weekend entertainment with the opening of a new theater. See Page 4.

Sangam's Next Wave

The South Asian cultural awareness group selected five students to lead it beginning in fall 2000. See Page 9.

Take Over, Reach Out

Do you want to take the helm of The (Weekly) DTH this summer? How about serving as a liaison between the paper and the community? If you said yes to either, then contact Editor-select Matt Dees at mbdees@email.unc.edu for more information on the summer editor and ombudsman positions.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
High 81, Low 59.
Friday: Thunderstorms;
High 80, Low 47.

Keep violence in the mind where it belongs.

Brian Aldiss