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Officials Defend Apartment Buildings' Safety Students Push Nike To Change

By KATHRYN McLAMB
Staff Writer

In the wake of two Chapel Hill apartment fires in less than a week, officials at the complexes are defending the safety of buildings and touting their response to the victims of the blazes.

Chapel Hill Fire Marshal Caprice Mellon said no cause had been determined for the Timberlyne fire, although fire department officials have ruled out faulty electrical outlets as a cause.

Mellon refused to comment on the Foxcroft fire because the investigation was ongoing.

But residents at Foxcroft, including residents of the apartment where the flames originated, blame faulty wiring for the fire.

Management officials at Foxcroft Apartments said they would take pre-

cautions to prevent a repeat of Monday night's blaze.

"In 1996, we had a fire that was also thought to be caused by a bad light fixture," said Charles Douthit, managing general partner of Foxcroft's ownership.

"Afterwards, we hired an electrician to go around to every apartment and go through everything where there might be a problem. We'll be doing that again now."

Douthit also said the management was looking into structural changes that would aid in fire prevention.

"There are some fire walls to stop fires in the attic," he said. "We are considering adding more."

Fire walls are sheetrock walls that serve to slow or stop the spread of flame from one apartment to another.

Douthit said Foxcroft had been inspected by the Chapel Hill fire mar-

shal only three weeks ago, with no problems reported.

"They go through areas like the office, the maintenance room and the hallways," he said.

"But they don't go into each individual apartment."

Douthit said the management had heard no major concerns about wiring since the 1996 fire.

"But anything we've heard we have tried to address immediately," he said.

Timberlyne managers said they did not believe wiring to be an agent in the fire there, which occurred Friday morning.

Both apartment complexes have offered alternative accommodations for victims of the fires and have observed flexibility with lease contracts.

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DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

A firefighter makes his way onto the scene of a fire at Foxcroft Apartments on Monday night. The blaze's cause is still unknown.

Students Push Nike To Change

College students who visited Nike's overseas factories say officials should have more dialogue with workers.

By WORTH CIVILS
Staff Writer

Nike representatives heard firsthand accounts about the conditions of their factories and received recommendations from students during a teleconference Tuesday.

Sixteen students, representing 14 universities, were chosen by St. John's University's Code of Conduct Task Force to personally tour Nike's factories during their spring breaks and take part in the teleconference.

The students joined members of PricewaterhouseCoopers, a consulting firm Nike chose to independently monitor its factory conditions. The team of students and PwC monitors visited 32 Nike factories that produced UNC and other collegiate-licensed apparel in North America, Asia and Latin America.

While students said the conditions in many of the factories were acceptable, they pointed out problems with employment records, explanation and enforcement of conduct codes and communication with workers.

But students said they found only isolated incidences of physical abuse and child labor, which they claimed partly resulted from Nike announcing the visits beforehand.

Simon Petridge, Nike labor practices manager, said the company formed the student monitoring team in response to nationwide college protests.

Over the past year, students at UNC, Duke University and several other institutions have protested for improved conditions and full disclosure of factory sites. Nike has released the 46 factory sites that produce UNC items, but Petridge said the company wanted to give students more.

"We wanted to let an independent group of students see and report back to campuses," Petridge said. "The students said factories could improve, and (they) found problems. Our work at Nike is just starting."

During the teleconference, the students made recommendations to Petridge and Nike Director of Labor Practices Dusty Kidd. "In May, (Nike) will start doing what the students recommended," Kidd said.

The student group made seven recommendations to improve monitoring processes and factory conditions.

The first three recommendations were to increase the amount of resources, training and time available to the monitors on their factory visits.

Jonathan Dolle, a student from the

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Plans for Campus To Hit Pit

Project Manager Linda Convisor says today's sessions will aim at gathering student input.

By BROOKE ROSEMAN
Staff Writer

With ambitious plans in the works to change the physical face of UNC during the next 10 years, the University community will have the chance to present their views on the Master Plan this week.

Representatives from the University's Master Plan Committee will be in the Pit from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today, rain or shine, to answer questions students have about UNC's blueprint for future growth.

Linda Convisor, project manager from the Office of Facilities Planning, said the goal of the information session today in the Pit was to give everyone a chance to view an updated version of the plan before summer.

"This has been a highly participatory process on the part of the students, faculty and staff," she said.

The Master Plan, initiated in 1998 by UNC officials, is a four-phase, long-term plan for campus growth.

"The entire committee wanted students especially to know where plans stood before we broke for the summer. We wanted to try to make it accessible to the entire student body."

Convisor said easels with the most recent drafts of the plan would be on hand, as well as members of the committee, so students could view the plans and pose questions.

One of the issues Master Plan Committee student members had a problem with were recreational facilities such as fields and tennis courts that would be removed once the Master Plan is in place, Convisor said.

Student Body Vice President Lerissa Rentas said she fought to keep recreational space during committee meetings.

She said the plan would take away some recreation space that already existed on campus such as the tennis and basketball courts behind Cobb Residence Hall, which would eventual-

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Striking a Chord



DTH/CHRISTINE NGUYEN

Members of Phantom FM jam at an apartment party in Ashley Forest. The band, comprised of UNC-CH students and one UNC-Greensboro student, has played at the Top of Lenoir and at Pantana Bob's since its formation a year ago.

Local Band Searches for Keys to Success

By CHRISTINE NGUYEN
Staff Photographer

Rock 'n' roll history is paved with kids getting together, buying a guitar and forming a band. Sometimes that dream is realized, but for every success story, there have been hundreds of bands that have struggled to find their musical niche among the famous.

One such band, formed a year and a half ago at UNC, has already set on this path.

One day, they might be signing autographs, playing stadiums and making millions, but for now the budding musicians are paying their dues.

Phantom FM, consisting of four UNC students and one UNC-Greensboro student, describes its music as lyrically focused, hip-hop, pop rock.

It took a year and a half to get everyone on

board, but lead vocalist Nate Katzin, drummer Logan Matheny, keyboardist Lawson Bennett, bassist Brennan Watson and lead guitarist Zach Gresham have meshed into a solid band looking to grow.

Phantom FM has broken into the Chapel Hill scene by playing at apartment parties and at Pantana Bob's.

Phantom FM has also come into the spotlight at the Top of Lenoir twice this year.

"Playing in Lenoir was fun because it's where

Focus on



Aspiring Musicians

The DTH looks at an issue in-depth. See Page 5

we eat every day," Bennett said.

"We played too loud and pissed off a lot of people, but we made some fans, too. With every show we play, we get closer to where we want to be."

The band is now writing more songs for a CD they plan to produce by December. They have also created a Web site (<http://phantomFM.8m.com>) to promote themselves.

Although it is the goal of many bands to find the elusive breakthrough, Phantom FM say it's not one they think is out of reach.

"People are looking for music with meaning," Katzin said.

"Right now, music is either sugar-coated or super-negative, and without complexity. We'll make it because we have the best lyrics and the most creativity."

Committee Rejects Matthews' Elections Board Choice

By MARK THOMAS
Staff Writer

Student Body President Brad Matthews' fledgling administration took its first dip into political hot water Tuesday night as one of his appointments spurred a series of ethical questions.

In a tension-laden meeting, the Rules and Judiciary Committee of Student Congress voted unfavorably on the

appointment of Marissa Downs to the post of chairwoman of the Elections Board.

After Downs confirmed for the committee she was currently involved in a relationship with Matthews, questions swirled as to whether her appointment constituted a conflict of interest.

Moments after Downs finished introducing herself and touting her qualifications for the post, questions began to fly about the perceived conflict.

The contention stemmed from con-

cerns about Downs' relationship with Matthews during his bid for student body president and her official duties as vice chairman of the Elections Board at the time.

Many committee members were bothered about the perception that Downs' involvement with Matthews compromised the legitimacy of student government and the elections process.

"We need to move away from the Elections Board of last year," said

Speaker Pro Tem Sandy Chapman, referring to a series of mishaps that plagued the board this elections season.

As Matthews looked on from the doorway, Congress Speaker Alex Bell spearheaded the discussion, calling into question Downs' decision to not withdraw from her high post on the Elections Board despite her continued relationship with Matthews during the campaign.

"I feel the integrity of student government and the elections process has

been tarnished as a result of this," Bell said.

Bell said she was not accusing Downs of any intentional wrongdoing, but said Downs' relationship with Matthews while acting in an official capacity created a negative perception of student government. "Anybody in a similar situation should have stepped down to preserve the integrity of the voting process," she

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INSIDE Wednesday

Funding Adventures

The University is increasingly investing in start-up companies to line its purse. Though a little risky, the investments can be very lucrative. See Page 6.

Colorblind Justice?

An N.C. legislative committee is looking into allegations that minorities, particularly blacks, disproportionately receive the death penalty. See Page 7.

Summer Lovin'

Anyone interested in working for The (Weekly) DTH this summer should meet with Summer Editor Brian Frederick in 108 Bingham Hall at 7 p.m. today. We need reporters, photographers, designers and graphic artists. Previous experience is helpful, but not required.

Today's Weather

More rain;
High 61, Low 41.
Thursday: Cloudy;
High 61, Low 47.

There is more stupidity around than hydrogen, and it has longer shelf life.

Frank Zappa