



ASHLEY STEPHENSON

UNC Needs 'Big Meese' To Stay Visible

Don't call it a comeback — I've been here for years. Five, in fact, all spent mired in University news. I've worked at The Daily Tar Heel since day one of my freshman year, many moons ago. Through dedication and commitment, I climbed the ranks, running the University Desk and serving as summer DTH editor in 1999 and a few things in between.

There it is, short and sweet. And throughout those five years, the same confusion has existed between the DTH and our readership. Students, faculty and staff often misunderstand that what lies on the back page is fact-based opinion, and the rest is facts, based on neutral reportage and unbiased editing. In news stories, reporters can't take sides, but this is not the questions that gnaw at their conscience — they leave their convictions and beliefs at the door.

I do not. I'm the middle ground, a gray area. How gray? Charcoal. I'm not like the back-page columnist flunkies of yesteryear who started off their diatribes with, "So I was at Waffle House and drinking coffee wondering why I can't score." I do wonder about that, but this is not the appropriate venue. I get to write news stories and let my views walk all over them. I'm the best of both worlds.

My title is columnist (I prefer columnist, but the boss said no), but I'm also a reporter. I'll report on many of the same issues you'll see in the news, but I'll be taking sides. I'll be stirring it up. I'll be calling out what DTH reporters can't. And it will be all University news, all the time.

Chancellor James Moeser is in the clear this week. Our new captain was out and about even before freshmen arrived on campus. He toured various buildings and didn't pull punches when he described some of the less-than-quality facilities on our fine campus. On move-in day, Moeser was meeting parents and students to welcome them to the University community. He's hit the ground running.

But so did his predecessor, former Chancellor Michael Hooker, who died of lymphoma last summer. Hooker, a former UNC student, jumped into the mix early on. He stepped on some toes and made a name for himself. He implemented ideas like the Carolina Computing Initiative. Hell, he crowd-surfed at a UNC basketball game once. But it wasn't long before Hooker retreated into the depths of South Building, save for appearances at meetings students didn't attend and that trip to the Campus Y for his morning cup of coffee. News from the chancellor's office was brought to the student body via Hooker's right hand man.

Former interim Chancellor Bill McCoy fell into the same cycle. Those first weeks, he shook hands in the quad. He gave out free ice cream in the Pit for a meet-the-chancellor party. But he, too, felt that storied gravitational pull of South Building.

I'm not sure what kind of hook-up the big dogs had in there, but they should have been going out and listening to the concerns of the people at this University.

So I want to see Moeser make good on what seems promising. I want to see him give a damn and make people eat their words. You know, the ones who said a dude from Nebraska couldn't develop such a deep love for this University that it would make him want to fight for it. The ones who said his roots wouldn't allow him to connect with the University's students. The ones who said he didn't know the system well enough to identify with the needs of its faculty.

I hope the Big Meese steps up, because we have a messy year ahead of us. The initiatives that once existed on paper are becoming reality. No more blueprints kicked around in meetings. Instead, issues like construction, laptops, higher tuition and a bond package that could make or break proposed projects at this University are going to be here every day affecting all of you. And it matters.

There it is. Take a chance on an unknown kid. This is the column with a "k" — and you know what that "k" stands for.

UNC Junior Dies in Automobile Accident

By ELIZABETH BREYER
Assistant University Editor

The excitement that usually marks the beginning of a school year was overshadowed by grief for some after student Molly McKay died in a car crash on her way back to UNC.

McKay, a rising junior from Statesville, was on Interstate 40 outside of Winston-Salem on Thursday when her sport-utility vehicle was struck by a car traveling out of control from the opposite lane.

Both drivers were killed, and several others were injured in the accident.

Services were held Sunday at Davidson United Methodist Church in Davidson, where McKay was a youth group leader.

Her friends remember her as a generous, caring person who drew great strength from her religious faith.

"She was constantly thinking about how to be a better person, have a better

relationship with God and how to make the world a better place," said junior Corrie MacLaggan.

"The greatest thing was how incredibly big her heart was."

McKay, a journalism major studying graphic design, was active in a number of campus groups.

She was a page editor for the Blue and White student magazine and a Bible study group leader for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

She also traveled abroad extensively, spending last semester studying in Florence, Italy, and the previous summer on a service project in Zimbabwe.

Junior Corrie White, who accompanied McKay to Zimbabwe and worked with her to raise money for secondary school scholarships for poor students, said the trip had truly shown off her adventurous and caring spirit.

White related a story of how McKay had personally paid for six children from Zimbabwe to stay in an expensive

hotel. The children, recipients of the scholarship McKay had worked to organize, were on a rare visit to the city and had nowhere else to stay after the ceremony at which they had been awarded their prizes.

"She was such a giving person — one of the most generous I have ever known," White said. "She wanted to give them the opportunity to feel like kings and queens."

MacLaggan said this type of impromptu giving was characteristic of McKay's personality.

"One thing about her is fun and spontaneity — there is never any idea too crazy for her and she is always up for anything," she said.

But McKay's friends said her religion was probably the most important element of her daily life.

White said McKay had moved back See ACCIDENT, Page 8A



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID SANDLER/THE WINSTON SALEM JOURNAL

Junior Molly McKay was killed in her Jeep Cherokee after an accident on Interstate 40. She was returning to UNC for the fall semester.

History of the Bond

After nearly two years of planning and politicking, the university bond saga will come to an end on Election Day, when N.C. citizens will head to the polls to decide the fate of the issue.

— January 6, 1999 — N.C. General Assembly requires UNC system to conduct a comprehensive examination of its buildings and facilities.

— June 11, 1999 — Eva Klein Consulting firm releases a report estimating that the system requires \$6.9 billion in capital improvements.

— June 24, 1999 — UNC-system bond proposal to fund capital improvements at the 16 UNC campuses goes before the General Assembly.

— July 20, 1999 — Legislature adjourns before a conference committee can meet to resolve differences in House of Representatives and Senate versions of the proposal. A Facilities Needs Committee is appointed to study the issue while the legislature is out of session.

— September 16, 1999 — Hurricane Floyd wreaks havoc on eastern North Carolina, causing the Facilities Needs Committee to push back its schedule until the new year.

— March 7, 2000 to April 26, 2000 — Needs committee conducts tours of all 16 UNC campuses and a multitude of community colleges.

— February 9, 2000 — UNC-system President Molly Broad announced that N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry will help the system find ways to fund capital improvements.

— May 3, 2000 — Facilities Needs Committee holds its final meeting, in which members vote to recommend to the full legislature that a \$3.1 billion bond package go to a referendum in November.

— May 8, 2000 — General Assembly reconvenes for its short session.

— May 18, 2000 — Legislature unanimously votes to put \$3.1 billion bond proposal on the ballot. NCCBI agrees to help coordinate the bond campaign.

— June 9, 2000 — NCCBI President Phil Kirk names 12 top state education and business leaders as campaign co-chairmen.

— July 17, 2000 — Campaign office opens in Raleigh under the leadership of North Carolinians for Educational Opportunity.

— Nov. 7, 2000 — N.C. citizens will cast their votes on the university and community college bonds.

SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES

Campaign Officials Plan For \$3.1 Billion Bond Vote

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
State & National Editor

Public higher education advocates across the state have 11 weeks to persuade N.C. voters to approve the largest bond package in state history.

The \$3.1 billion package is the culmination of a push to gain state money to fund capital improvements on the 16 UNC campuses and the state's community colleges.

But it is still unclear which way the majority of North Carolinians will swing when they enter the voting booths on Nov. 7, though preliminary polls have shown most voters favor the bonds.

A Mason-Dixon poll released last month indicated that 60 percent of likely voters statewide supported the bonds.

A similar poll conducted in March by N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry, an organization that helped system offi-

cial lobby the N.C. General Assembly during May's short session, showed the a 77 percent approval rating.

Campaign Director Leslie Bavacqua said officials are working to reach as many N.C. citizens as possible in the coming weeks, mainly through incorporating the bond into any public event at the state's higher education institutions.

"We are trying to make sure that we are visible at all events that are related to the university constituency and the community college constituency," she said.

Bavacqua is heading up North Carolinians for Educational Opportunity, a Raleigh-based group formed after the legislature's unanimous approval of the referendum May 18.

Campaign officials are also hoping to raise \$3 million to fund campaign advertisements. Bavacqua said nearly \$1 million in funds has been raised already, primarily from corporate sources.

As of yet, no mobilized effort has emerged to oppose the bond issue. But George Leef, director of the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, a Raleigh libertarian think tank, has spoken out repeatedly against the package.

Leef's reservations are similar to the ones legislators raised last summer when they failed to approve a similar package, citing the need for a more in-depth study of the system's capital needs.

Leef said he does not support placing the state in debt to fund the construction of new buildings needed to accommodate growing student enrollment. "It simply isn't true that UNC has to grow with the population of the state," he said.

N.C. residents have a number of options other than attending a system school, such as private institutions and distance education, Leef said.

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Students Step Into New Year With Fall Fest 2000

By JEFF POULAND
Assistant Photo Editor

The fall semester seldom starts with the passing out of syllabi and half-day classes.

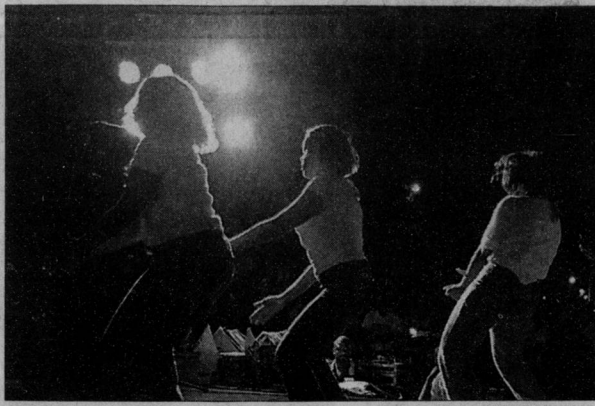
Instead, in accordance with years past, the school year began on Sunday night with a nonalcoholic party on South Road.

Soon after new freshmen had unpacked their boxes and old friends had met again, the UNC Marching

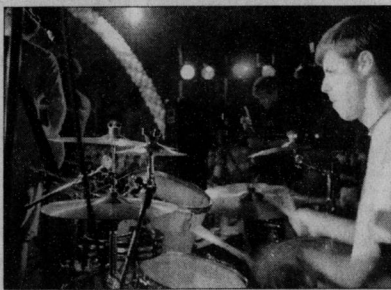
Band opened Fall Fest.

Marching into the celebration, they stopped at Stage A, where Student Body President Brad Matthews introduced a new face to the crowd, Chancellor James Moeser.

Later on the same stage, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., stepped into the spotlight while various student organizations and bands, including "Milo," played the crowd until the early morning.



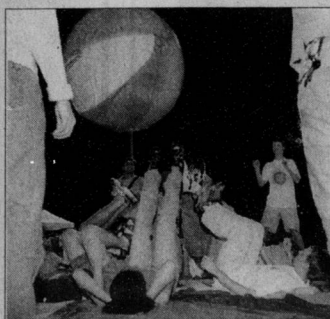
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Pruitt: Students Likely To Get Closer to Court

The CAA's proposal would allow students to watch court-side from stand-only risers in the Smith Center.

By MIKE OGLE
Assistant Sports Editor

Proposed changes to student seating at men's basketball games is only a step away from becoming a reality.

The CAA proposed plans in the spring to put more students closer to the court in hopes of creating a more frenzied atmosphere. This will require the permission of donors who helped foot the bill for the Smith Center and were rewarded with season tickets.

Carolina Athletic Association President Tee Pruitt said the Department of Athletics, the Educational Foundation and the CAA now are awaiting final approval from some Smith Center season ticket holders.

"We're all but done with it," Pruitt said. "The only thing left is we still have some donors who have to respond to some letters that were mailed to them."

Pruitt said John Cherry, executive vice president of the Educational Foundation, expected the plan to be finalized and officially announced within the next two to three weeks. Cherry, who is in charge of season tickets for basketball games, has been on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Pruitt also said neither he nor Cherry anticipated any problems in the last stage of approval. But if some donors unexpectedly won't agree to the proposal, the plans would have to be put on hold.

Pruitt wanted to replace approximately the first 10 rows of seats behind

the basket in front of the North Carolina bench and the first 10 rows in the corner of the lower level in the student section with stand-only risers. Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium has a similar set-up.

Pruitt also aimed to swap some student seats behind those risers with donors' seats in the corner around section 104 behind the visitors bench.

The study into seating changes began after the Jan. 27 home game against Maryland at which students were allowed to invade the lower level of the arena. Any student showing a UNC ONE Card was admitted, and the students filled the lower-level seats left vacant by alumni who did not make the trip due to a 16-inch snowstorm.

In the lower level, the students created a raucous atmosphere during the come-from-behind victory, and players and coaches noted their vocal support. Since that game, Pruitt has made it his mission to permanently relocate students at basketball games.

Pruitt worked on the project throughout the summer to get the plan to its current stage. No permanent construction is required to add the risers in the Smith Center, meaning implementing the plan should take little time. Pruitt said the new arrangement will definitely be in place before the 2000-2001 season begins.

The first regular-season home game is Nov. 10, when North Carolina hosts the NABC Classic at the Smith Center. The Tar Heels will be joined by Winthrop, Tulsa and Arizona State. UNC faces Winthrop in the first round of the event.

Pruitt said, "I'm happy with it, and I hope the student body will be happy, too."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

Provost Search Committee Ready to Release Final 5

By KIM MINUGH
University Editor

The Provost Search Committee is one step closer to filling the important University position, officials say.

Chancellor James Moeser said five finalists will be disclosed in the near future, pending the return of committee Chairman Jeffrey Haupt to campus.

Moeser said the five proposed final-

ists are likely to visit UNC at the end of the month for tours and introductions to the University community.

Haupt, who is on vacation, could not be reached for comment.

The search began in May 1999, after former Provost Dick Richardson announced his plan to retire June 30, 2000. Interim Provost Richard Edwards left the School of Social Work to temporarily take the helm in May.

The 16-member committee has been as secretive as the Chancellor Search Committee, which leaked little information to the public before it finally nabbed Chancellor James Moeser for the post in April.

Under the late Chancellor Michael Hooker and interim Chancellor Bill McCoy, the provost was the chief academic officer of the University.

Upon arriving at UNC, Moeser chose

to blend the provost job description with that of the executive vice chancellor, a post Hooker created for Western Michigan University President Elson Floyd.

During his term from 1995 to 1998, Floyd was frequently called upon to act as a spokesman on behalf of Hooker and the University.

The new role will call for the provost to act as both the University's

spokesman and the academic officer presiding over UNC's 14 deans.

Student Body President Brad Matthews said he thinks the increased responsibility of the position will attract a greater applicant pool. "I think it's a huge selling point," he said. "Yes, it is daunting, but it is a great challenge."

Moeser said that after the names are

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