

Talking Politics  
Price discusses  
future. See Page 2



Of Interest  
Is the DTH right for you? Attend  
the interest meeting at 6 p.m.  
Jan. 17 in 318 Greenlaw Hall.



Weekend  
Today: Cloudy, 47  
Saturday: Cloudy, 52  
Sunday: Sunny, 58

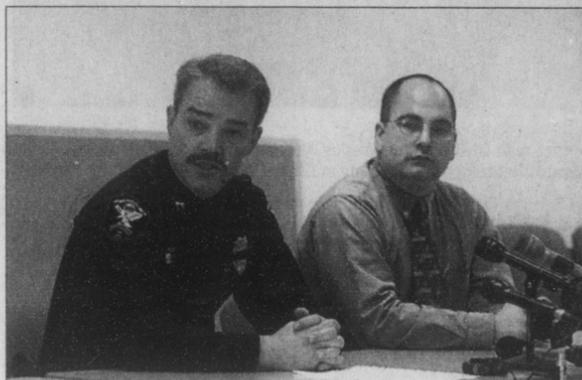
# The Daily Tar Heel

www.dailytarheel.com

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Friday, January 12, 2001

## Ex-UNC Worker Faces 33 New Felony Charges



DTH/BRENT CLARK

Carrboro police Capt. Joel Booker and investigator Matthew Dean field questions at a press conference Thursday about recent sexual assaults.

By BEN GATLING  
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — A former University employee has been charged formally by Carrboro police with an additional 33 felony charges, including rape.

Dwayne Russell Edwards, 33, of 100 Rock Haven Road, Apt. M-304, was charged by Carrboro police on Thursday with first-degree rape and several counts of first- and second-degree sexual assaults, which occurred in late December.

He also was charged with other felony offenses, including larceny and kidnapping.

Edwards, who has previous arrests in Cumberland County, was first arrested and charged with seven different felonies by Chapel Hill police Tuesday in connection with the rape of a UNC

student that occurred on Hillsborough Street.

The Durham Herald-Sun reported that Edwards also has served prison time in Jackson Co., Ill., for burglary and forgery and was released on parole after one year. He was then released from parole in August of 1999.

The first local assault occurred Dec. 22 at Ridgehaven Townhomes and the first rape was reported at 1000 Smith Level Road on Dec. 26, according to police reports.



Former UNC employee Dwayne Russell Edwards reportedly has served prison time in Jackson Co., Ill.

Carrboro police Capt. Joel Booker said investigators issued a warrant for Edwards' arrest for the two December assaults after searching his home and his startup business, Edwards Educational Center at 705-A W. Rosemary St.

"After the (Chapel Hill) assault on Tuesday, we had another piece of the puzzle," Booker said.

"Once the search warrant was served, it brought into the picture the other crimes."

Both assaults happened within a small geographic area, although in the first assault there was no evidence of forced entry, Booker said.

"The apartment complex Edwards lives in is on the other side of the road from where the assault occurred," he said. "Between the two assaults, the level

See EDWARDS, Page 4

## Edwards Had Held 3 UNC Jobs

A former UNC employee had access to student records and information despite his previous arrests.

By TYLER MALAND  
Staff Writer

A former UNC employee with a previous criminal history managed to escape background checks before his employment in various University departments.

Dwayne Russell Edwards, who has held positions at three different University facilities since August, was charged with seven felonies in Chapel Hill this week in connection with Tuesday's Chapel Hill rape. The Carrboro police have charged him with 33 felonies in relation to one rape and one sexual assault in Carrboro in late December.

Edwards served jail time in Illinois for more than five months in 1997 and 1998 for counts of burglary and forgery, The Herald-Sun reported Thursday.

Edwards also had previous arrests last year in Cumberland County for breaking and entering and felony larceny.

But because a University employment policy only requires background checks for jobs considered positions of trust, the University was unaware of the prison time Edwards served and his numerous arrests.

Judy Sladen, director of Tar Heel Temps, part of UNC's human resources department, said positions of trust are considered occupations, such as housekeeping, where the employee has access to other people's personal property. Edwards was employed at the University through Tar Heel Temps, which provides temporary employees for the University. "University policy is that if a worker is going into a position of trust, a criminal background check is run," Sladen said. "(Edwards) did not go into a position of trust, so there was no background check."

But Edwards filled several positions at the University, one of which gave him access to students' personal information.

Edwards worked in a clerical position at Student Health Service last semester for a duration of four months. Such a position gave Edwards access to students' telephone numbers and addresses on the SHS database after students provided a PID number as part of appointment scheduling procedures.

"His assignment was to help students schedule appointments to see our providers," said Bob Wirag, director of SHS.

Edwards then worked at the Registrar's Office from Dec. 28 to Jan. 3. He also underwent training to work in Davis Library until his employment with Tar Heel Temps was terminated Jan. 8. Sladen said Edwards was fired because he did not show up for work and did not call about his absence.

Joe Hewitt, associate provost for University libraries, said he has no say over which temporary employees are hired at the libraries. "We basically take whoever is sent over (from Tar Heel

See LIBRARY, Page 4

## Peppers Decides To Stay in School For '1 More Year'

Football standout and basketball reserve Julius Peppers stated he will pass up the NFL Draft to return for his junior season.

By BRET STRELOW  
Senior Writer

Julius Peppers announced Thursday that he will not leave school after his sophomore season and enter this year's NFL Draft. He didn't exactly give a ringing endorsement that he would finish up his eligibility at North Carolina, though.

Peppers, a star defensive end on the UNC football team and valuable reserve for the men's basketball team, released a statement saying he would return to the University for one more year. Peppers redshirted in 1998 and is classified as a junior academically.

"I'm happy going to school and being a Tar Heel, and this is where I want to be for one more year," Peppers said. "I want to take care of things on the basketball court with Coach (Matt) Doherty and help us win some more games. Then I will get ready to do the same for our football team in the fall."

Peppers, who is 6-foot-6 and weighs 270 pounds, has averaged 4.7 points and 4.0 rebounds in six games with the basketball team. During the football season, he led the country with 15 sacks and had 24 tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Peppers said in the week leading up to the Tar Heels' game against Pittsburgh on Nov. 4 that he would return to school. But after Carl Torbush was fired on Nov. 20, Peppers hedged on his decision. New coach John Bunting's decision not to retain defensive ends coach Donnie Thompson also fueled speculation that Peppers would bolt for greener pastures in the NFL.

Peppers said that he needs another year to prepare for the NFL and improve his standing in the draft. He also said he and his mother feel it is important that he move closer to graduating.

Peppers doesn't want to make Bunting's first season as coach any more difficult, either.

"I want to help Coach Bunting get off to a good start at North Carolina," Peppers said.

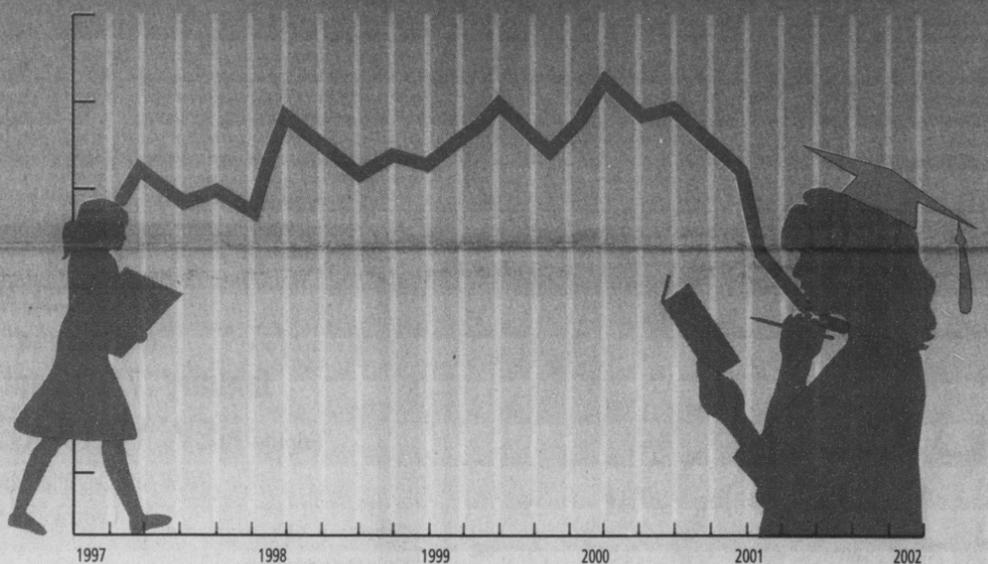
Bunting said he hasn't had a face-to-face conversation with Peppers in the last three weeks. But he said the members of UNC's academic support staff did an effective job relaying his thoughts to Peppers.

"I am thrilled that he will be with us," Bunting said. "I think it's great for our team. I think it's good for our program, and I think it's good for Julius, as well."

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

## Rocky Road to Success?

Current economic trends in the U.S. have revealed a gradual slowdown resulting from falling dot-com businesses and poor holiday consumer returns. While most college seniors remain confident about future employment options, many are wary about venturing into less stable jobs, especially if conditions persist.



DTH/JASON COOPER AND LAUREN DAUGHTRY

## Economy Dips, But Jobs Still Beckon

By STEPHANIE HORVATH  
Staff Writer

The recent economic downturn might have made politicians point fingers and Wall Street investors sweat through their Brooks Brothers shirts, but University faculty say it's still too soon for UNC seniors to stress about the dip affecting their job search.

Economic indicators have suggested that in the third quarter of 2000, the booming economy of the last few years slowed, expanding at the most sluggish pace in four years.

The NASDAQ has had its worst year since its inception, falling 38 percent since the beginning of 2000. The market decline led to a drop in consumer confidence that manifested itself in slow Christmas season retail sales.

But University Career Services Director Marcia Harris said seniors should not panic yet.

"I think (graduating seniors) should be concerned enough not to assume it's a good economy, and they'll have multiple job offers," she said. "But I don't want to scare students by saying we're getting into a recession. We've seen dramatic downturns, and this doesn't appear to be one yet."

Harris stressed that a large number of businesses are still contacting UCS to request interviews and to publicize job offers. For the past several years, college graduates have had the luxury of entering a labor market in need of workers.

But Harris said UNC graduates are usually able to find jobs, even in times of economic decline. "Our students tend to do well in almost

any economy," Harris said. "We do surveys every year, and back in the early 1990s when the economy was tough, six months after graduation only 7 percent (of graduates) were still looking for jobs."

Economics Professor Michael Salemi said it is too soon to tell if the dip in the economy will become a recession. He said that while lagging holiday retail sales indicate an economic slowdown, the Federal Reserve Board's decision to cut interest rates by 0.5 percent on Jan. 3 might give the economy "a soft landing."

"It's certainly too early to be hitting the panic button," Salemi said.

But in times of economic decline, some seniors fear that newly hired employees often

See ECONOMY, Page 4

## School Board: Scouts Must Find New Facilities

Due to their policy allowing discrimination against gays, the Boy Scouts must change meeting sites by June 30.

By GEOFFREY WESSEL  
Staff Writer

Change is in the air for local Boy Scout troops.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education voted at its meeting Thursday to withdraw support from the Boy Scouts,

giving them until June 30, the end of the school year, to find new facilities.

The decision comes after the Supreme Court's October 1999 ruling that the Boy Scouts can legally exclude homosexuals as members and volunteers. Like many other boards of education nationwide, local board members decided they were violating their own nondiscrimination policy by allowing the Boy Scouts privileged access to school facilities.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have historically been the only outside groups allowed to use school facilities free of

charge. But the board's action last night will change that.

The new policy the board adopted allows use with "no fees or very low fees" for any "youth-serving groups" that meet certain criteria.

The criteria include compliance with school board policies, including nondiscrimination, and goals compatible with those of the school board.

"We didn't want to create a situation just for Scouts," said Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools spokeswoman Kim Hoke.

In addition to losing meeting space,

the two Cub Scout packs chartered by local schools will lose their charters in June.

Last night's decision was one of two options presented to the board. The other option considered, to have the local Boy Scout units continue using schools after signing a contract pledging compliance with school board nondiscrimination policies, was rejected due to lack of support from Boy Scout leaders.

"I can't see how local organizations can say we will be in defiance of Boy Scouts

See SCOUTS, Page 4

## Honor Code?

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools has a policy against any kind of discrimination, but the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Boy Scout policy, based partially on its oath, that permits barring gays.

"On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight."

- The Boy Scouts of America Oath

"It is the desire of the Board of Education that community groups that wish to use school facilities not discriminate ... on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability."

- Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education Use of Facilities Policy

SOURCE: BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CITY SCHOOLS

Esse Quam Videri. (To be rather than seem.)

North Carolina state motto