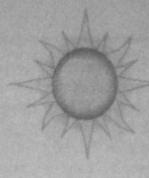


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Girl group rocks
hard. See Page 3



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Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Students, Faculty Defend Speaker Choice

By SCOTT BRITAIN
Staff Writer

One week after the announcement of ESPN sportscaster Stuart Scott as the May Commencement speaker, a small group of faculty have stepped forward in protest of the nontraditional choice.

Several students, faculty members and Scott himself have countered this opinion, saying these concerns are misguided and should have been raised before the selection.

Scott, a 1987 UNC graduate, will

deliver the Commencement address May 20. The decision to have Scott speak is a change from previous years, when the Commencement speakers were prominent figures in government or the liberal arts community.

Faculty Council Chairwoman Sue Estroff, who was unavailable for comment, was quoted in The Chapel Hill Herald as expressing concern over the change in speakers from previous years.

Estroff told the newspaper this weekend that she and other faculty members felt this school year has focused too much

on athletics. Estroff and other faculty expressed concern last fall when UNC offered Virginia Tech football coach Frank Beamer a \$1 million annual contract. "I'm disappointed," she said of the selection. "This is nothing personal about the individual. It has to do with my views about the nature of the (Commencement) ceremony. It's especially disappointing in a year where the relationship of the academy to athletics has been under a lot of discussion. It's ironic that this year, at this ultimately academic conferral of degrees, we have a sports anchor."

Senior Class President Jason Cowley said he is upset with Estroff's concerns because she was a member of the committee that decided on the speaker.

"She had a chance to put her input in at the meeting," he said. "It's just plain impolite to voice this ill will once the decision has been made."

Cowley said he feels that those who were criticizing Scott were not considering the positive attributes that he brings to the podium. "She's forgetting the

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Faculty Council Chairwoman Sue Estroff has expressed concern that Stuart Scott differs from previous speakers.

Local Judge Doles Out Homework

A restaurant owner denied access to a patron and his guide dog and now must write a book report.

By ALDESHA GORE
Staff Writer

In an unusual ruling, an Orange County judge has thrown the book at a local woman.

District Court Judge Alonzo B. Coleman ruled Monday that Iris Andros, co-owner of Zorba's restaurant, must write a 10-page book report on guide dogs and the disabled before April 2. The ruling came in response to a discrimination suit brought by a blind man who was denied entrance to Zorba's by Andros on Oct. 7.

Coleman said he plans to read the book report book aloud at Andros' next court appearance, which is the same date that the report is due. Andros could face further punishment depending on whether the report satisfies Coleman.

The civil dispute stems from an incident when David Oberhart, a visually impaired man, approached Zorba's restaurant and was denied entrance by Andros because he was accompanied by his guide dog.

Oberhart said he told Andros that he was blind and that he needed a guide dog to see, but he said Andros did not listen. "We are concerned that she has not learned from her lesson," he said.

Kim Steffan, Oberhart's attorney, said Andros' book report will play a significant role in her upcoming court date. "What she writes in her book report will influence her sentencing," Steffan said. "And whether or not she had gained any perspective or knowledge from writing the report."

Steffan also said the penalty for Andros' crime could be either a fine of up to \$200 or a suspended jail sentence and community service.

But Coleman said his ruling is not about penalizing Andros but making her aware that what she did was wrong.

"The book report is not to be a punishment but a learning experience for her," he said.

Coleman said he has used this as a successful type of punishment for similar situations before.

"Recently I had a young woman to write about alcoholism," he said. "When I see young people going down the wrong road, I have them read a book."

But Andros said she is not happy with Coleman's decision, which might lead her to pursue further action.

"We are thinking about appealing the court case, but we have not decided yet," she said.

But Steffan said Andros could have

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Schools Review Security After Recent Violence

Local school officials stress the need to take threats seriously and say safety measures have been increased during the past year.

By JENNIFER SAMUELS
Assistant State & National Editor

Almost two years after a shooting at Columbine High School left 13 students and two gunmen dead, a similar incident in Santee, Calif., has forced many to question the success of programs developed to curb school violence.

Ronald Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center, said school shootings motivate school officials to take a closer look at their own methods for handling violence.

"After Columbine, (officials) certainly enhanced security plans and school safety plans," he said. "The question is how you create safe schools without turning them into fortresses."

Stephens said improvements to safety plans included minimizing the number of entrances and exits and developing protocol to deal with threats made by students.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools officials said they think the methods employed by local schools are effective in preventing crime. Steve Scroggs, assistant superintendent for support services for the district, said the system has heightened security in schools during the past year. He said metal detectors were put in place at sporting events after shots were reported but not verified at a Chapel Hill High School football game earlier this year.

He added that one of the system's main goals in dealing with potential problems has been to develop a uniform plan for all schools to follow in case of emergency.

"(We) needed to be consistent in our response pattern," Scroggs said. "Gain consistency on a very scattered plan about safe schools - (that's) one of the lessons learned."

But Jane Grady, assistant director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of School Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said it is impossible to prevent violence with plans designed only to keep weapons out of schools.

Instead, Grady stressed that combating violence in schools should be a community issue.

"We'd be fooling ourselves to say everything can be prevented," she said. "We need to improve the environment. Keeping weapons out of schools is not the problem."

Grady added that she thinks preventing school violence should be a common goal in the community. "We see this as a larger community issue," she said.

David Thaden, principal of East Chapel Hill High School, said the high school has been trying to increase communication between students and adults to help prevent violence. He cited the school's Advocacy program - in which a group of 10 to 12 students are paired with an adult - as a successful prevention attempt. "This year (in Advocacy) we stressed how important it is to talk to people if you have a concern," he said.

Thaden also said the program emphasizes encouraging students to talk about threatening comments made by friends.

He added that the school has been fortunate not to have many problems with violence. "When you put 1,300 kids in the same place, this, that and the other will happen, but we have been remarkably free of physical problems," he said. "On campus we've been pretty lucky."

But both system officials said no special plans were in place to deal with the aftermath of the California shooting.

Thaden said that though faculty made an effort to mingle with students during lunch and class changes, no structured plans were made.

"We put out a notice to all counselors, administrators, teachers, telling them (to watch for kids) showing signs of needing to talk," he said. "But there was nothing structured."

Stephens added that it is important for adults to listen to students and take seriously any threats they hear.

"No question. All threats need to be taken seriously," he said. "(Violence is a) continuing reminder that despite our best efforts, (schools) are still vulnerable. The best metal detectors around tend to be students because they are on the front line."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.



Brandi Fletcher hugs her daughter Alyssa after placing flowers on top of the Santana High School entrance sign in Santee, Calif., after a shooting Monday that killed two and wounded 13.

Investigators: Shooter Had No Target

The Associated Press

SANTEE, Calif. - The 15-year-old accused of killing two fellow high school students was an "angry young man," but apparently lashed out at no particular target, investigators said Tuesday.

Charles Andrew "Andy" Williams seemingly shot at random. He expressed no remorse for Monday's shootings at Santana High School, Lt. Jerry Lewis said.

"We don't know if he was mad at the school, mad at students, mad at life, mad at home," Lewis said. "He was an angry young man."

Williams was a new kid in a large school, a child of divorced parents living with his father, a skinny freshman whose skateboard had been stolen - twice.

During the weekend, Williams talked so much about taking a gun to school that they frisked him before class Monday, friends said.

But he was known for pranks, and friends wrote off his comments as one of his frequent jokes.

The father of one friend even called Williams at home over the weekend to ask if there was anything to his talk of bringing a gun to school. He decided there wasn't.

No one seemed to believe the clean-cut kid, who was frequently teased, was about to perpetuate the nation's latest high school bloodbath.

The disbelief remained a day after the shooting, which left 13 others injured.

One victim, Barry Gibson, 18, said he was more perplexed than angry.

"I have no hatred because I don't know him," said Gibson, who was shot in the back of his left thigh when he ran back to help a friend. "I don't know what was in his mind."

Williams is expected to be arraigned Wednesday as an adult on charges that include murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

Dressed in a baggy jail-issue jumpsuit that draped past his ankles, the teen stared at the ground as he was led into juvenile hall Monday.

Bryan Zuckor, 14, and 17-year-old Randy Gordon were killed; 11 other students and two adults - a special education student teacher and a campus security worker - were wounded. Several had been released from area hospitals.

School officials said Santana High would reopen Wednesday for students to discuss Monday's shooting.

The boy allegedly shot two people in a restroom, then walked into a quad and fired randomly, Lewis said. He stopped to reload as many as four times, getting off 30 or more shots.

"The information we have from the evidence and the witnesses (is) the suspect was firing randomly at anybody who was going by," Lewis said. "Any student who was going by, he was shooting at."

BOG to Weigh Tuition Increase Requests

By KOEN DE VRIES
Staff Writer

Tuition increases at five UNC-system schools could be approved today at the monthly Board of Governors meeting.

During the past few months, boards of trustees at five UNC-system schools have submitted tuition increase requests to UNC-system President Molly Broad.

If the full BOG approves all the tuition increases as is, tuition would be raised \$150 at N.C. Agricultural & Technical University, \$160 at UNC-Pembroke, \$200 for N.C. Central University undergraduates and \$288 for N.C. Central graduates. But the biggest increases would be at Appalachian State University and UNC-Greensboro, which

have both proposed \$300 tuition increases.

The increases will go largely toward increasing faculty salaries and student financial aid.

If the board approves the tuition increases, the N.C. General Assembly still will have to approve the proposal.

BOG member H.D. Reeves, Jr. said board members were split on the tuition increase issue. "I certainly do not expect a unanimous vote," he said. Reeves said he would decide how to vote



The BOG's only student member, Andrew Payne opposes the tuition increases requested by campuses.

after listening to the debates on the issue today.

The BOG already approved a 4 percent system-wide inflationary tuition increase last fall.

Broad is not expected to make any recommendations to the board.

But Andrew Payne, the only student representative on the BOG, said he thinks tuition increases have gotten out of hand.

Five other UNC-system schools, including UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University, proposed tuition increases last year, which were approved in a rare split vote.

Payne said he opposes campus-initiated tuition increase requests, a policy that allows UNC-system schools to seek approval for tuition increases. "I don't want campuses to be able to call for tuition increases themselves."

Payne said the UNC-system's tuition-set-

ting policy mandates that tuition increases only be implemented under extraordinary circumstances, which he says do not exist in this situation. "I don't think any of these campuses have met (that standard)."

Student leaders and activists contested the tuition increases last year, holding rallies and lobbying BOG members to build opposition to the increases. But Payne said there was not much resistance to these five tuition increases from student leaders. And the student body presidents at the five schools either supported the increase or had not voted on the issue.

"They had no choice - either fall behind (other schools) or have a tuition increase."

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The mysterious is always attractive. People will always follow a veil.

Bede Jarrett