

HOUSEKEEPERS
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meetings and will be at today's conference. Barbara Prear, president of UE Local 150, the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, and Marsha Tinnen sent Moeser a letter Jan. 10 asking for a meeting with him to discuss complaints about the way the situation has been handled up to this point.

During the December meetings, the housekeepers articulated concerns about various policies and protocol, worker expectations and dissatisfaction with their zone manager, Chuck Matheson, who they insist is disrespectful and intimidating. Matheson has denied any allegations made by the housekeepers.

More specifically, the employees expressed concern about the absentee guidelines used by the housekeeping

department and asked that they be eliminated. They also were upset about various problems they identified in the grievance procedure.

Employees also described problems with a recently modified disciplinary policy, which reduced the number of warnings a worker could receive before dismissal. Prear and Tinnen additionally complained that they were ordered to move to a midnight-to-8 a.m. shift in early January, although they say they are supposed to be given a choice in the matter.

After the two meetings, Prear and Tinnen contacted the chancellor, saying follow-up action from the Department of Human Resources and the housekeeping department was not sufficient. They also said Charest left out integral details from meeting summaries she compiled.

But in a report submitted to Moeser on Jan. 31, Charest outlined the responses to the issues discussed in the

December meetings.

Soon after the housekeepers complained about the attendance policy, its written guidelines were rescinded. Concerning the disciplinary policy, Charest recommended "additional communication" to housekeepers about the guidelines. Human resources staff began meeting with workers last month in each zone to review UNC's disciplinary policy.

According to the report, Burston indicated that work schedule changes were being made throughout the housekeeping department. "Each housekeeper in zones where work hours were being changed was given an option of staying in that zone and changing their work hours or moving to a zone that would not require them to change work schedules," the report states.

Charest said this protocol complied with state and UNC policies.

Regarding the complaints about Matheson, interviews with 20 housekeepers assigned to his zone were conducted. Charest's report does not disclose recommendations based on those interviews, citing confidential personnel information.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

LAWSUIT
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She said the Maryland Consumer Protection Act guards residents against unfair and deceptive business practices such as the system's action.

"It is considered a breach of contract," Eisenberg said. "From a contract analysis perspective, I think they have a very strong case."

If the lawsuit is successful, the extra \$13 million students are paying this semester to the system will be refunded.

The seven students involved in the suit include five law students, one medical student from the University of Maryland-Baltimore and one undergraduate from the University of Baltimore.

The surcharge ranged from \$76 to \$115 for in-state students depending on the system school, Canavan said. For out-of-state students it ranged from \$189 to \$333, while the surcharge for graduate students was as high as \$500.

"Five hundred dollars is a lot of money to pay on short notice," Eisenberg said. "The students are not saying that the university cannot raise

tuition. They are only saying that the university cannot raise tuition in the middle of the game."

But Canavan said a tuition hike was the lesser of two evils. The board wanted to minimize the damaging effects of the budget cut and to avoid the worst possibility - a reduction in the quality of education, he said.

Eisenberg said a 1992 case in New Hampshire set the precedent for this case.

In 1990, the state's public universities raised tuition from \$200 to \$400 midyear.

The New Hampshire Supreme Court declared the midyear hike permissible for some students, because many of them had been given two months' notice. But for those students who were not notified in advance, the increase was not permissible.

Canavan said the students in the Maryland system received two weeks' notice.

The students' petition to block the university system from accepting any more tuition for the spring semester will be heard Tuesday, and a court date could be scheduled at that time.

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

SANTILLAN
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continue operating Jessica's Hope Chest Inc., a nonprofit foundation started originally to raise funds for Santillan's expensive transplant.

JHC continues to benefit families of critically ill children who do not have medical insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, according to the foundation's Web site. It was started in May 2000 largely out of the inspiration of custom home builder Mack Mahoney, who declared himself Jessica's benefactor.

JHC works with construction companies to build houses at minimal building costs. The houses then are sold at market prices, and profits go to the foundation, the site says.

"JHC does our best to help these families with the costs that could easily drag them under financially."

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Campus Calendar

Today

7:30 p.m. - The **Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies** will host a debate on the topic "Resolved: Race is an acceptable criterion for consideration in university admissions." The event will be held on the third floor of New West Hall, and all are invited to attend.

Point of Interest


Bring your cans into the Campus Y for the **Beat Hunger! Beat State! Food Drive**. Other drop-off locations are all over campus, including the Union, Student Stores, residence halls and departments. Food will aid the N.C. Food Bank. The drive will end at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Think Spring Break



Nanette Lepore hat with Herve Chapelier mini tote
Shoshanna heart bikini with sarong

uniquities

Chapel Hill 452 W. Franklin Street (919) 933-4007
Raleigh 450 Daniels Street (919) 832-1234

CLUB SAFETY
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"This weekend, there were no inspections," said Chapel Hill firefighter David Sasser.

"I don't know if there are any planned, but it would be through the life safety division of the department if there are."

Sasser said that when on-the-spot inspections are performed, the focus is usually on the occupancy of the venue rather than on safety precautions.

"(In Chapel Hill) the door guy usually keeps a pretty good count of people," he said.

Annual bar inspections are performed to make sure exit lights are working, nothing is blocking exits and no trash is around exits, Sasser said.

If on-the-spot inspections are done, they usually occur when there appears to be a large crowd outside of a venue or

when the fire department knows there is supposed to be a popular band in town, said Carrboro firefighter Scott Merritt.

He said that in an inspection, the club owner is asked to do a head count.

The Chapel Hill Fire Department follows the N.C. fire code, Sasser said. Most establishments respond well if there is any problem and try to keep things in order, he said.

Cat's Cradle, a rock club located in Carrboro that is similar to the Station Nightclub in Rhode Island, is up-to-date on its safety compliance, said Cradle owner Frank Heath.

"We keep up with everything that the fire marshal gives us," he said.

Heath said Cat's Cradle has the appropriate number of fire extinguishers, exit lights and exit routes. There is no blockage of exits, and the building has a smoke detection system that is connected with the Carrboro Fire Department.

Russell Ellis of rock club Go! Rehearsal Studios in Carrboro, said Go!

has a sprinkler system, the appropriate number of exits and two main entrances to provide safety for its occupants.

One of the two entrances at Go! requires people to walk down a long hallway illuminated by multiple exit signs, Ellis said. The hallway allows people to see many other ways to get out of the building in the event that there is an emergency.

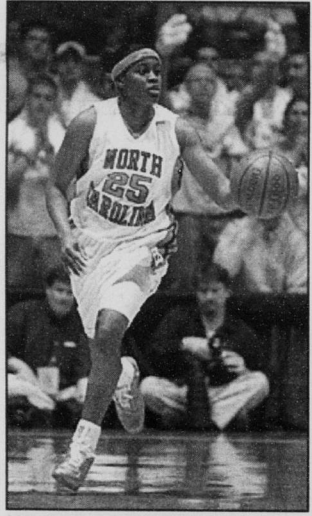
But Ellis said the venue's size makes it simple to exit in a disaster. "It is one of the easiest clubs (in the area) to get out of," he said.

Heath said he has been discussing with Cat's Cradle staff what to do in the event that a disaster occurs.

"The only thing the staff can do is instruct people to the nearest exits," Heath said. "All I can do is give some ideas to my staff, but you really don't know what you're going to do in a situation like that."

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

women's Basketball



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Study

Application deadline extended for the UNC programs in Florence

Applications are still being taken for fall and both summer sessions in Florence for the Lorenzo de' Medici and SACI (studio art) programs.

Although many programs are full, there are still opportunities to study abroad this summer and next semester - or even for a year!

Come to the Study Abroad office for more information on how to research program options.

Study Abroad
UNC Chapel Hill

The Study Abroad Office
201 Porthole Building (next to the Hanes Art Center)
962-7002
<http://studyabroad.unc.edu>

Get Organized!

Organizing For The Spirit

Sunny Schlenger, a UNC alumnus and professional organizer and coach, will present her organizational program for personal and professional lives, oriented for students but effective at all ages.

<http://www.selfknowledge.org/events/schlenger.htm>

Tuesday, February 25th
7:30 pm
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