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Officials to review policy on recruits

Task force formed in wake of scandals

BY DANIEL BLANK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Colorado football coach Gary Barnett tried to write off the recruiting sex scandal that rocked his university, but few others around the nation are regarding the issue so lightly.

Despite Barnett's dismissal of the controversy as a "bump in the road," the NCAA has announced it will form a committee to investigate collegiate recruiting practices nationwide.

ACC officials said they will form a similar task force, chaired by University of Maryland Athletic Director Debbie Yow, that eventually will report its findings to the NCAA's committee.

A series of meetings headed by UNC Director of Athletics Dick Baddour also will begin this week to review recruiting policies at the University.

Baddour said he and Chancellor James Moeser had several discussions prior to the formation of the committee, which will include faculty, staff, coaches and potentially student-athletes.

Baddour said the Department of Athletics constantly reviews its practices. But he said recruiting was not going to be a major topic of discussion at this year's meetings until the Colorado scandal unfolded.

The unseemly aspects of college recruiting were exposed when three female CU students filed suits alleging that Colorado football players and recruits raped them at a party in 2001.

The school also has faced numerous other allegations of rape and use of sex and alcohol to entice recruits.

Lee Fowler, director of athletics at N.C. State University, said that even though ACC officials do not believe they have a problem, it is important to have a policy review to ensure that nothing like what happened at Colorado will happen in the conference.

"Any time something like this happens, you take a good hard look at what's going on," he said. "We don't want to legislate morality, but we also want to make sure coaches know what's going on."

UNC football coach John Bunting said he and his staff conduct an annual review to ensure their policies are up to standard.

Bunting said he believes most

SEE RECRUITING, PAGE 4



Firefighters work Monday morning to contain a fire at Brighton Square Apartments in Carrboro. Three local fire departments responded to put out the fire, which took over an hour. The fire completely destroyed two apartments, but the other four might be salvaged. The cause is unknown. DTH PHOTOS/JUSTIN SMITH

FLAMES CONSUME LOCAL APARTMENTS

Cause of Brighton Square blaze still unknown

BY EMMA BURGIN
CITY EDITOR

After more than an hour of fighting flames, men and women from three local fire departments extinguished a raging fire in Carrboro on Monday that destroyed a building at Brighton Square Apartments.

Carrboro Fire Marshal Stan Foushee said that he did not have any leads on a possible cause of the fire, and that the investigation could take several days.

Firefighters responded to the fire shortly after 10:30 a.m. Foushee said the department initially had a hard time communicating with the woman of the apartment where the fire originated because she spoke Spanish.

"Until we can find out what started it, we don't know if something could have been done," he said, adding that he started talking to residents and taking pictures of damage.

Foushee said at least one-third of the building likely will be torn down because two of the six apartments were gutted by flames. The remaining four apartments might be saved.

The fire department's response was delayed because of radio transmission problems, Foushee said, but there was nothing they could have done about it.

About 40 minutes after members of the Carrboro, Chapel Hill and New Hope fire departments arrived, residents cleared the parking lot as clouds of smoke swallowed the building and flames spread across the top floor.

Firefighters used chain saws to cut limbs away from the woods in the back of the building to prevent them from catching on fire.

More than an hour after they arrived, the

blaze was reduced to spot fires and smoke, allowing some firefighters to rest on the grass and gulp down water.

Foushee said fires of this magnitude are rare, and while he hesitated to estimate how often they occurred, he said he sees an average of one or two each year.

The apartment building's inhabitants have been told to relocate, said Frances Ferris, UNC student body secretary, who lived in 33 Brighton Square with her fiancé, Sean Crocker.

Crocker was the only one home when several firefighters entered his apartment and yelled at him to get out since he lived directly beside the apartment that caught fire.

"It's all going down," he said, glancing at the flames as he walked anxiously around the parking lot. "I didn't grab anything — my cell phone, my computer."

Crocker, a graphic designer, said his portfolio was on his computer. Ferris later said they retrieved the computer tower and will try to transfer Crocker's portfolio to a safe place.

But while Crocker and Ferris had renter's insurance to cover damages, Bill Young, who lived directly above the apartment that caught fire, did not. "I have no idea what I'm going to do," he said.

Young said he looked through his bedroom window and could see flames. He tried to call 911, but the phone lines weren't working. Young grabbed his daughter's computer, some of his sons' clothes and the family hamster before escaping out the balcony window.

"It's mostly just stuff. But there's my daughter's journals and poetry, pictures, videos and my baby book from when I was little," he said,



trailing off. "That's stuff I'm going to miss."

Ferris said she and her neighbors are organizing an effort to raise money for Young and the woman who lived in the apartment where the fire originated, who also did not have insurance.

"I saw them just sitting on the curb," she said. "They have nothing."

To donate money or children's items to the families, contact Ferris at (919) 956-9545 or ferris@email.unc.edu.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Award name incites debate

Moeser notes need for UNC dialogue

BY JENNY RUBY
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor James Moeser on Monday sanctioned dialogue about an award named in honor of a white supremacist who had an integral role in the University's history.

The move marked the first time Moeser allowed research into removing the name of a white supremacist from a campus fixture.

"This is a serious issue," Moeser said. "If we value knowledge and understanding, we should always be willing to look at documentary evidence of our past, whether we think it may be painful or not."

Moeser announced his support for research and dialogue about the name of the Cornelia Phillips Spencer Bell Award during Monday's Bell Award ceremony.

The push for debate on changing the award's name is led by a group of organizations that for years have advocated such action.

The groups also have pushed to change the names of Saunders Hall and the Caldwell Monument, both named after white supremacists.

"If you look into this, there are some people on campus who have been trying to raise issues with white supremacy on campus for the last seven or eight years," said Yonni Chapman, a doctoral candidate in the history department who is leading the recent effort.

But Chapman said this is the first time such action has reached open dialogue endorsed by the administration.

Moeser said an effort to investigate the issues raised in Chapman's research will be organized by Harry Watson, director of the Center for the Study of the American South, and Bill Ferris, the center's senior associate director.

During Monday's ceremony, Moeser invited the campus to weigh in on the debate. He also requested suggestions for ways the University can honor exceptional women in the UNC community.

SEE AWARD, PAGE 4



UNC Chancellor James Moeser is encouraging a closer look at a UNC award.

Bresciani a finalist for A&M position

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The four finalists for UNC vice chancellor for student affairs are set to be announced this week, but the man who currently serves as interim vice chancellor for student affairs is vying for a similar position at another school.

The Battalion, the student newspaper at Texas A&M University, reported Thursday that Dean Bresciani is one of four finalists for vice president for student affairs at the university.

According to the report, Bresciani will visit the school on April 5 to introduce himself to the campus community at an open forum.

Bresciani was out of town and could not be reached for comment for this story.

He has served in the interim since July 2002 when then-Vice Chancellor Sue Kitchen stepped down.

A search committee was



Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dean Bresciani is a finalist for a position at Texas A&M.

formed, but was dissolved in September when the group could not reach a consensus decision on any of the three candidates.

A new search committee was formed in November, but Bresciani, who moved up from associate vice chancellor for student services, said in December that he did not expect to inhabit the position for so long and that he would not seek to remove his interim tag.

He also said at the time that he would consider returning to his former position, which was then vacant.

SEE BRESCIANI, PAGE 4

Obler, 62, instructor, mentor

BY EMILY STEEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Jeffrey Obler, a professor of political science who spent more than 25 years of his life serving the University, died of pneumonia Saturday afternoon after battling a two-month-long illness. He was 62.

The dedicated instructor of international politics and political philosophy was admired and respected by both students and colleagues for his love of teaching, debate and learning.

"He had such an awareness about the world, how it worked and how to make it better, and teaching was just his passion," said Rebecca Williford, a senior political science major who took two classes with Obler and completed her honors thesis under his guidance.

Obler was, without question, the best classroom instructor in the Department of Political Science, said Lars Schoultz, a long-time friend and Kenan professor in the department.

Schoultz said Obler had an extraordinary ability to explain the complexities of politics in a sophisticated manner that never left any students behind. "He looked at teaching as a voyage, a

trip that he and the students were taking together. Everybody who was in his class had known within a week that they had really, really lucked out."

The minute Obler walked into a classroom with his can of Diet Coke or bottle of Dasani water, he captured the attention of his students as he paced in front of the classroom, lecturing without notes in hand, students said.

"It was like going in and having a really good conversation with a really intelligent person," said Carisa Showden, a graduate student who worked as a teaching assistant for Obler's introduction to political theory course. "He was just a really good person and a wonderful teacher."

Students frequently visited Obler in his office on the second floor of Hamilton Hall to discuss current events, said Schoultz, whose own office was just two doors away.

Williford said an extended illness forced her to take an incomplete in one of Obler's classes, but that she learned some of the most valuable lessons when she visited his office.

"He is just one of those people that you are glad you had as much time with

him as you did," she said. "Your life is a little different because you knew him."

Obler received many awards during his career, including two Tanner Teaching Awards and a Students' Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Members of the department had such respect for Obler's teaching abilities that he was selected to instruct a course about teaching for graduate students in the department.

In addition to teaching, Obler served as the department's director of undergraduate studies and director of internships and awards.

Obler, who did his undergraduate work at New York University and earned his doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1970, focused his research on moral theory and public policy.

He most recently published work about the alternative moral justifications for welfare policies. He also has published articles in numerous journals, including Political Theory, Comparative Politics and The British Journal of Political Science.

SEE OBLER, PAGE 4

"He had such an awareness about the world, how it worked and how to make it better. ... Teaching was just his passion."

REBECCA WILLIFORD,
SENIOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR



INSIDE

SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

A martial artist who spent 17 years in illegal circuits talks about his switch to a peaceful lifestyle PAGE 7



SPORTS

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Senior Emily Price hits her stride at the plate, launching three home runs in four games PAGE 10

WEATHER

TODAY P.M. showers, H 59, L 46
WEDNESDAY Thunderstorms, H 66, L 40
THURSDAY Partly cloudy, H 63, L 39

