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Waste at UNC sparks 2nd probe

SUBCONTRACTOR CLAIMS WORKERS EXPOSED TO MERCURY

BY BRIAN HUDSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The N.C. Department of Labor is investigating allegations of work-site negligence by University officials in regard to the presence of toxic materials on a campus construction site.

The probe is on top of an ongoing investigation by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources into the transporting and storing of hazardous materials from the Medical Sciences

Research Building demolition site. Southern Site & Environmental Corp. has alleged that University officials failed to remove the hazardous materials from the demolition site, possibly exposing workers to the toxic materials.

Officials from Southern Site & Environmental, a subcontractor on the project, said that late last year the University failed to dispose of containers containing materials such as mercury and arsenic.

Mike Unti, a lawyer representing

the company, said that while the waste was on the construction site, some of it was dumped onto the ground by unidentified workers.

"I don't know whose worker did this, but (workers) were seen dumping the barrels when they needed the barrels for something else," he said.

A DENR spokeswoman said that it is the Labor Department's responsibility to investigate the alleged on-site violations.

When a reporter from The Daily

Tar Heel contacted the Labor Department to see if it was investigating the University, spokesman Juan Santos said that officials previously were not aware of the allegations against UNC but that the department would investigate.

"We have not received a complaint from anybody," Santos said. "We will look into it. It will be a routine investigation to determine what was involved."

Santos said that he is not sure what the department investigation

will entail but that he expects the investigation to take between four and six weeks.

"It depends on what we find," he said. "It's either a 'no finding' — everything is in compliance — or we find that there are violations."

Peter Reinhardt, director of the UNC Department of Environment, Health and Safety, said he has made inquiries and has not found evidence for dumping.

"I've talked to everyone but Southern Site Environmental," he said. "The contractors told us of no dumping. The subcontractor who handles it knows of no dumping."

The University was responsible for disposing of the toxic materials, but they were not removed from the site until January 2004, more than three months after the materials were introduced into the site.

An interior demolition subcontractor, Quantum Environmental, was hired to remove asbestos from the building. During the project, the subcontractor also was enlisted to remove the building's "P traps," the pipes from under the sinks in laboratories.

Michael Mellia, president of

SEE PROBE, PAGE 2

Gymnast takes 1st in floor exercise

Bumpers' title a UNC milestone

BY GABRIELLE DEROSA
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Throughout the 2004 season, North Carolina's Courtney Bumpers has demonstrated that she is unequivocally one of the top gymnasts in the nation.

And now she has the trophy to prove it.

The sophomore tied for first on floor exercise as an individual competitor at the NCAA Championships in Los Angeles on Saturday with a score of 9.375.

Bumpers had occupied the No. 1 rank in the nation on floor since Feb. 23. She edged out Alabama's Ashley Miles for the rank, and Miles tied Bumpers for first on the event at nationals.

"The goal coming in was to do the best she could," said UNC coach Derek Galvin. "We can't control the scores, we can't control the outcome. If she did her best, then it was up to the judges to do their best."

After receiving a 9.925 in Thursday's preliminary round, Bumpers tied for second and garnered a spot in Saturday's final event.

"Even when my score came up, I told my coach I wasn't sure I had made it," Bumpers said.

She gave a quick call to her teammates at home to check the outcome. The Tar Heels had gathered in a dorm room to celebrate her appearance at nationals and to check score updates via the Internet.

The squad would have joined Bumpers in competition, but UNC had missed a team bid to nationals by 0.025 points two weeks earlier.

"The one thing we were concerned about was that she didn't have her team," Galvin said. "It's difficult to make it through the preliminary round as an individual because you don't have that team support."

The scenario echoed Bumpers' individual performance last year at nationals when she and senior Anna Wilson traveled to the NAAs without their spirited teammates.

Despite the solo voyage, the atmosphere was not quite as intimidating as it was a year ago for Bumpers.

"(Competing last year) helped a lot just because I knew what to expect," she said.

Bumpers received the highest marks of the 12 individual all-

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INSIDE

CLOSING TIME

The DTH catches up with graduating senior S.J. Chapman, who was profiled four years ago **PAGE 3**



SPORTS

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

The UNC women's track team wins the ACC outdoor championship to get its third title this year **PAGE 14**

WEATHER

TODAY Sunny, H 88, L 58
TUESDAY Partly cloudy, H 83, L 58
WEDNESDAY Cloudy, H 79, L 57

APPLE CHILL 2004



DTH/SAMKIT SHAH

The Apple Chill Cloggers perform during the Apple Chill festivities on Franklin Street on Sunday afternoon. Below: Police showed up at Local 506 on West Franklin Street after two men were stabbed during a hip-hop event planned as part of the club's After Chill events.

REVAMPED FAIR ENDS IN TUSSLE

2 stabbed at Local 506 during After Chill event

BY EMMA BURGIN
AND ERIN GIBSON
STAFF WRITERS

The smell of funnel cakes and the sound of music floated down Franklin Street on Sunday as residents flooded downtown for Apple Chill festivities, which traditionally mark the beginning of spring.

Craftsmen traveled from across North Carolina and even neighboring states to display their work in the center of the street.

By many accounts the event was a success, but at least one event billed as an "After Chill" event turned violent.

Two men were stabbed at the Local 506 bar Sunday at an After Chill hip-hop showcase, said Maj. Kent McKenzie, of the Orange County Emergency Medical Services.



DTH/LAURA MORTON

The incident happened in the bar at about 11 p.m. One man on the scene had visible stab wounds on his hand, and another had wounds on his arm. The man with the arm wound refused medical transport, saying he wasn't dizzy and didn't need additional treatment.

Both men walked away in a group, white bandages covering their wounds and blood splattering their clothes.

Chapel Hill police Sgt. Robert Cardem spoke to Local 506's owner over the phone

and advised that he close the bar for the night. "I'm not going to make you close down," he said. "But you would be well-advised to do so."

Adam Touw, director of label operations at Soul Dojo Inc., promoted the hip-hop event and was standing in the door when he saw masses of people running out of the bar. He said the music was too loud to hear any cries.

Touw said that officers asked him about the bar's security that night and that there were six regular security guards on duty in addition to six officers from an outside company.

"I felt that was adequate," he said, adding that the bar was catering to about 150 people, which is 100 less than maximum capacity.

Alison Finch, Alcohol Law Enforcement liaison for Chapel Hill police, spoke to Touw about the incident. "Two people stabbed is a big lapse," she said, standing with Touw beneath the light pole outside the bar. "Any other night might not have been a problem,

SEE APPLE CHILL, PAGE 2

County Democrats lay out plans

Pull for Kucinich in statewide caucus

BY SARAH RABIL
STAFF WRITER

HILLSBOROUGH — The Raging Grannies kicked off the 2004 Orange County Democratic Convention on Saturday afternoon with their rendition of several classic tunes featuring anti-Bush and pro-peace lyrics, which were well received by the fiery crowd.

"Take back, take back, oh take back our country from Bush, from Bush," they sang.

People packed into the court-

house in Hillsborough for the convention following the statewide Democratic Presidential Preference Caucus to allocate delegates to the Democratic Party's national convention.

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, won in Orange County, garnering 375 of the 1,158 ballots cast at the two polling places. Kucinich paid a visit to Carrboro on April 4 to campaign.

"Leave it to Orange County," said Barry Katz, chairman of the coun-

ty's Democratic party, in reference to Kucinich winning the county.

U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., the as yet unofficial nominee for the national party, collected the second largest number of ballots, with 312 votes.

Trailing were U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., with 303 votes; former Vt. Gov. Howard Dean with 128; and the Rev. Al Sharpton with 39. One ballot was cast as uncommitted.

Of the registered Democrats in Orange County, 2.6 percent turned

SEE CONVENTION, PAGE 2



DTH/JANE NOVOTNY

Raging Grannies Marguerite Coyle (right) and Liza Farmer wait to perform Saturday at the Orange County Democratic Convention.