

The Daily Tar Heel

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Judge drops Dorrance suit

CASE AGAINST UNC OFFICIAL WAS SET TO BEGIN IN COURT MONDAY

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON
SENIOR WRITER

A lawsuit against North Carolina women's soccer coach Anson Dorrance will not go to trial after a U.S. District Court judge granted a summary judgment in favor of the defendants Wednesday.

Chief Judge N. Carlton Tilley Jr. of the U.S. District Court in Greensboro effectively dismissed the claims of Melissa Jennings, a former goalkeeper

for the Tar Heels.

Jennings alleged in 1998 that Dorrance had reimbursed team members for alcohol bought during her recruiting trip and had forced her to withdraw \$400 from her bank account to buy supplies for her teammates before a game.

She also accused Dorrance of invasion of privacy, saying he intimidated players into sharing details of their personal lives, including their sexual activity.



Women's soccer coach Anson Dorrance was absolved Wednesday of a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by Melissa Jennings.

The case had been scheduled to go to trial Monday.

The complaint named Dorrance, three assistant coaches, a trainer, numerous University officials including Director of Athletics Dick Baddour and the late Chancellor Michael Hooker,

and the University itself.

"I am thankful the court has ruled to dismiss the case," Dorrance said in a statement issued Thursday. "I appreciate the support of so many people, including the University, my players and family, gave me throughout this entire process."

"So many of the comments that were attributed to me were simply not true. I apologized before for making some inappropriate comments, but none of them reached the levels that were claimed in this case. I'm glad we can all move forward and I can concentrate on

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Graduate students vie for a presence

Report critiques GPSF, looks at group's impact

BY RACHEL BROCK
STAFF WRITER

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation aims to have its voice heard on campus, and as GPSF President Jen Bushman's administration approaches the midway point of its term, the group is examining the impact of its voice.

The student body executive committee's October Report, which was released Tuesday, outlines Bushman's platform and evaluates the success of programs the GPSF has implemented thus far.

Bushman said she is pleased with where her administration stands.

"I think we've gotten a great jump on goals that we set," she said.

Much of the report focuses on the GPSF's efforts to develop the graduate student community.

According to the report, this process involves integrating graduate and professional students by incorporating individual schools and programs into the graduate school as a whole.

A redesigned Web site also is aimed at making GPSF more accessible and helpful to student in the group.

"It will help us get the word out," said Ben Mount, GPSF secretary. "We are an inclusive organization."

Bushman said a new and improved graduate student orientation provided a jump-start to achieving this development.

This year, a panel was developed for orientation to aid international graduate students.

Also, this year's Welcome Reception was operated differently, as invitations were extended to both current and incoming graduate students instead of just new members.

Awareness and communication have been focuses of the administration as well.

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Severe illness at UNC

BY EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Officials have initiated an extensive search for anyone who has been in close contact with a UNC freshman who was diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis — a highly contagious, potentially life-threatening bacterial infection — Thursday afternoon.

Jonathan Parker Davis, a resident of Granville Towers West, was admitted to UNC Hospitals on Wednesday, and a lab test confirmed his condition Thursday.

Late Thursday night Davis was in serious condition as he battled the disease, which can lead to permanent brain damage, hearing loss, learning disability, limb amputation, kidney failure or death.

"The situation is being monitored because we can't know which way it will go," said Stephanie Crayton, spokeswoman for UNC Hospitals.

Meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord, is contracted through close or prolonged contact with an infected person.

"We are concerned about identifying individuals who have come into contact with him," said Bob Wirag, director of Student Health Services. "We need to be as cooperative as possible in the public health interest."

Area health officials are recommending that anyone who has been in close proximity to Davis during the last two weeks immediately pursue treatment — even if they have been vaccinated — by contacting officials with Student Health or the Orange County Health Department.

The disease, which Wirag said was last reported at UNC in 1998, is transmitted through coughing, sneezing, kissing and oral contact with shared items, such as cigarettes and drinking glasses.

Davis attended a party Oct. 22 at 611 Chamberlain Rd. in Raleigh and was at Top of the Hill Restaurant and Brewery on Tuesday.

Nurses will administer doses of the oral antibiotic Cipro to students

SEE MENINGITIS, PAGE 5



North Carolina State Representative Alma Adams speaks at the Active and Informed Voter Education Rally, a final event organized by the Black Student Movement and Southerners for Economic Justice on Thursday night in Manning Hall to increase voter turnout.

BSM AIMS FOR ACTIVISM

BY MARTA OSTROWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Profound and aggressive in his manner of speaking, the Rev. William Barber inspired students Thursday night during a speech aimed at increasing minority voter turnout at UNC.

The address was one of two events held Thursday to motivate students to take part in the democratic process.

Along with Barber's speech, the Black Student Movement held the last of four "Vote Early" marches, in which students gathered in the Pit and walked to Morehead Planetarium to cast their ballots ahead of Tuesday's election.

The BSM political action committee and workers' rights group Southerners for Economic Justice, who sponsored the speech, said they are working together to build a new wave of student activism.

The BSM is bringing speakers to UNC's campus to talk about election issues pertinent to minority students.

"It's your time now, and your turn

to let freedom ring," Barber said as he encouraged students to take advantage of their rights and vote.

He also told students to look for guidance from historical African-American leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, and to change the world in which they live.

Natalie Murdock, co-chairwoman of the political action committee, said the speech was a success.

"This event is to help get students excited and let them know that they can also take part in issues," she said.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning, only 42 percent of eligible African-American citizens aged 18 to 24 turned up to vote in the 2000 presidential election.

This year, BSM officials said, they want to focus on educating student voters so they can cast an informed ballot. CIRCLC statistics show that 81 percent of young voters say they are paying close attention to this election — the largest number since 1992.

"It seems like students these days have a spark to get involved and have control of their destiny," said Julius West, co-chairman of the political action committee.

"I also think that George Bush is the

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Last-minute shoppers shouldn't be spooked



Bianca Manuelli (left) and Sarah Leonard (right) explore Surplus Sid in Carrboro on Thursday night during their search for Halloween costumes.

Local vendors offer various Halloween getups

BY BLAIR RAYNOR
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill police are expecting a crowd of 70,000 to overtake Franklin Street on Sunday.

After 9 p.m. the street will be closed off in honor of ghosts, ghouls and goblins, in addition to those locals

INSIDE

Town prepares for onslaught of 70,000 people Sunday.

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yet to find a costume.

Fortunately for those last-minute shoppers, some of the best places to shop for creative costumes are not hard to find.

At 309 E. Main Street in Carrboro, Surplus Sid is glowing with the Halloween spirit.

"We consider ourselves world famous 'Halloweenists' down here," said Barry "Sid" Keith, owner of the army supply store.

He said this year's most popular requests have been rock star costumes, including a Marilyn Manson getup, and "Star Wars" costumes, which include a variety of Jedi outfits.

Keith said people who wanted to wear costumes in groups can also find help at Sid's.

The Village People, characters from "Gilligan's Island" and the Seven Dwarfs were popular costume requests. The shop also carries military costumes for any "Top Gun" fans out there, Keith said.

Time After Time, a vintage clothing store at 414 W. Franklin St., is another Halloween haven for locals.

Co-owner Annie Jackson said that cus-

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ONLINE

- Groups ready for Nov. 2 with hotline
- Weekend offers haunted happenings
- Spice Street hosts masquerade event
- RHA and DPS put on a safety expo
- Town committee discusses mobility
- Find more stories at www.dthonline.com.



SPORTS

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

The women's soccer team ends its regular season with an undefeated record in the ACC PAGE 7

WEATHER

TODAY P.M. showers, H 66, L 59
SATURDAY Partly cloudy, H 81, L 59
SUNDAY Sunny, H 78, L 48

