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Judge: AIO can sidestep rules



Trevor Hamm, Carlon Myrick and Jonathan Park, the members of Alpha Iota Omega Christian fraternity, have been in a court battle with the University since Aug. 25, when the Alliance Defense Fund filed suit over the denial of AIO's status as an official campus group.

UNC TO RECOGNIZE FRATERNITY WHILE COURT BATTLE PROCEEDS

BY EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

With the backing of a federal judge, members of the Christian fraternity Alpha Iota Omega once again are part of an official UNC organization.

But their status is not secure. U.S. District Court Judge Frank Bullock Jr. granted a preliminary injunction Wednesday, reinstating AIO's official status until the case comes to a conclusion. The ruling allows the fraternity to limit its membership on First Amendment grounds.

The decision marks the first time a federal court has ordered any state university to modify its non-discrimination policy to protect students'

First Amendment rights, said Jordan Lorence, an attorney with Alliance Defense Fund, a religious rights organization that is representing AIO.

"I mean, we are satisfied," AIO Vice President Jonathan Park said after a chapter meeting Thursday. "We won't really be happy until the issue is resolved."

The judge's decision marks a legal victory in the Christian fraternity's fight to receive official UNC recognition, which was revoked in December 2003 when members refused to sign the University's

nondiscrimination policy.

Bullock was forced to issue an order in the case after lawyers were unable to reach an agreement Monday, the deadline to submit a consent decree that would clarify the policy.

"The University will comply with the order as the case moves forward," UNC stated Thursday in a release. "That means the University is prepared to recognize AIO if it agrees to meet all University requirements and policies

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FRANKLIN NIGHT LIGHTS



Sophomore Tameka Attaway stands outside the Varsity Theater on East Franklin Street Thursday evening. Franklin Street has been the site of two high-profile crimes in the last week, both of which occurred before 3 a.m. on well-lit, heavily trafficked stretches of the town's main thoroughfare.

Police aim to bolster patrols

BY JON BURNS
STAFF WRITER

Contrary to what some might think, many late-night crimes in downtown Chapel Hill occur in well-lit, well-traveled areas.

But after two high-profile incidents on Franklin Street in the last week — the Friday morning assault on a University junior classified as a hate crime and a Wednesday morning rape — police say shortages in the department prevent them from upping their downtown presence.

Police Chief Gregg Jarries said the two officers who are downtown every night on foot patrol, as well as the two off-duty officers who stay in the area on weekend nights, will have to make do for now.

The 10 vacant slots in the police department need to be filled before he can get more officers on the streets, he said, adding that he will work with Town Manager Cal Horton and the Town Council to try to increase salaries and offer benefits in an attempt to fill the slots.

Making matters worse, he said, many eyewitnesses don't contact the police because they don't believe that what they've seen will help.

"One item may help solve a crime, from a facial description, an accent, an article of clothing or a tattoo," Jarries said, encouraging anyone to contact the department at 968-2760 with any information related to a crime.

Witnesses to a crime should call 911 immediately, but they also should stay at the scene to provide police with information, Jarries said.

Witnesses' concerns about getting involved with the police often leave investigators with few active leads.

As of 4 p.m. Thursday, police had only one eyewitness report in relation to the Friday assault and had not been able to interview the victim.

According to police, six to seven men attacked junior Thomas Stockwell at 2:04 a.m. near 100 E. Franklin St. after making derogatory remarks about his sexual orientation.

Jarries said the only information police have received about the victim has come from numerous media reports. "We've made several attempts but have not been able to contact

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Keg policy, tax lead town's list for legislators

Meeting will take up local agenda

BY ADAM W. RHEW
STAFF WRITER

Local leaders will have a lot to talk about today when they meet with state legislators.

Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council and delegates from the N.C. General Assembly will discuss legislative initiatives — some new, some procedural and some familiar — that the town would like to see considered in the assembly's current session.

One of the new discussion topics at the breakfast meeting will be a proposal to register beer kegs.

At the council's Feb. 14 meeting, council member Jim Ward asked that keg registration — which would require merchants to tag every keg they sell with the buyer's name, phone number and driver's license number — be added to the list of legislative requests.

But keeping Ward's proposal on the list has not been easy.

"The way (keg registration) has been rationalized is if we don't support keg registration, then we support teenage alcoholism," said council member Mark Kleinschmidt, one of three who did not want the proposal even included on the discussion list.

Keg registration is not the only potentially controversial item on the town's legislative agenda.

Members also want to discuss adding a \$1 luxury tax to each ticket for a major event — such as a UNC men's basketball game — that is valued at more than \$35.

Mayor Kevin Foy said the tax, which has been lobbied for before,

would benefit area transit.

"We all know that Chapel Hill Transit is immensely successful," he said. "As it grows, it needs to be able to serve customers."

Although some legislative proposals are designed to spark debate, at least one is aimed at ending it.

Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos said the council wants lawmakers to remove the town's name

from a statute that authorizes about 20 cities to use automated cameras to catch motorists who drive through red traffic lights — a contentious topic in the area.

Last year, council members voted 5-4 in favor of not renewing the town's contract with Affiliated Computer Services, the company that operated the camera system.

Karpinos said removing the town's name from the statute is necessary to officially eliminate the program in Chapel Hill.

Council member Dorothy Verkerk expressed concern about including the revision in the legislative requests, saying there were too many topics to discuss.

Despite her concern, other items to discuss include:

■ Repealing a state statute

SEE REQUESTS, PAGE 4

Increasing health cuts force UNC to nix jobs

Affected workers will be reassigned

BY SHARI FELD
STAFF WRITER

When he took over as the UNC Health Care chief executive officer, William Roper was expected to improve the unit's financial performance.

Now, one year later, UNC Health Care will eliminate 200 positions — 160 of which are vacant — by June 30 in a cost-cutting effort aimed at improving facilities and expanding the system's ability to help the people of the state.

"We have undertaken a beginning-to-end review of everything we do," Roper said. "We are looking for ways to improve. At the same time, we are looking to do our vari-

"I'm really proud of him, proud that he's grounded.... He's never lost focus of what he set out to do." JACKIE HOOKER, MOTHER

Senior bolsters team spirit

BY MARY DUBY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With a pensive look on his face, he leaned forward in his chair to gain a better view of the situation.

He thoughtfully studied his players, debating what the next move should be, all the while anticipating what repercussions his decision might have on the action of his foe.

After a moment's hesitation, he finally committed his subjects to a play.

The smoky queen slid up alongside her reverent bishop, jointly staring down the enemy. The opposing king, barricaded on either side by his own pawns and bishop, located no escape route.

Checkmate.

North Carolina basketball walk-on C.J. Hooker had dissected his opponent swiftly and claimed victory by serving as the king ruling over his court.

It marked a slight change of

pace for the senior, who usually plays on the lower ranks of the hierarchy for the No. 2 Tar Heels.

But as UNC faces sixth-ranked Duke on Sunday during its final appearance at the Smith Center this season, Hooker will have the chance to step into the lording role.

Although he has totaled just 43 minutes and averages less than one point per game, the first Tar Heel basketball player to hail from Alaska will start the last home game of his career, keeping with the tradition of the basketball program.

"I've thought about (starting) a couple times, but I'm trying not to because then I'll get nervous," the 6-2 guard said.

Those nerves were there the first time he played in front of a packed arena in 2002, taking on then-Coach Matt Doherty during "Midnight with the Tar Heels" — an honor he earned by winning a campus 3-on-3 tournament.

"Before the game started, I was scared to shoot a jump shot because I was afraid I might air ball it, so I was just doing layups," Hooker said.

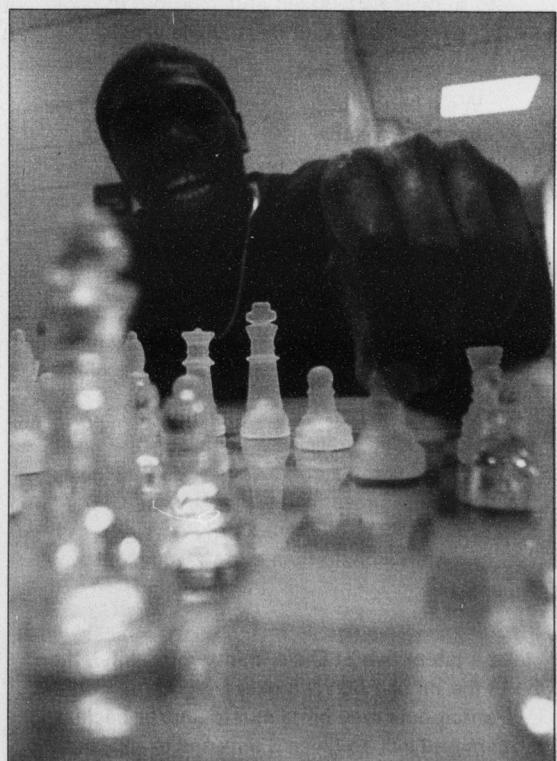
Although the team hasn't talked about it yet, the anticipation is that Hooker and fellow walk-on Charlie Everett will join Jawad Williams, Jackie Manuel and Melvin Scott on Sunday in the senior-led starting lineup against the Blue Devils.

That starting spot wearing the powder-blue North Carolina emblem in front of a sold-out crowd is a long away from his 4,533 population hometown of Palmer, Alaska, and a shade lighter than the royal-blue jersey Hooker wore as the most valuable player at Palmer High School.

It's even farther from the middle school chess club that piqued Hooker's interest after his father taught him how to order his pieces about the board. Hooker, who came to UNC on a partial academic scholarship, found chess challenging, and the duo used to play when he first mastered the game.

"Once I could beat him, he wouldn't play me anymore," Hooker said of his father, Connie. Named Connie Trevorce Hooker

SEE HOOKER, PAGE 4



Senior guard C.J. Hooker, a mathematics major from Alaska who will start with his fellow classmen Sunday against Duke, slides a pawn into place.

ONLINE

PlayMakers' 'Yellowman' solid gold
Legislation lightens N.C. death row list
Conference weighs high school reform

District eyes child abuse accountability
Chapel Hill High shows off ace pianist
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SPORTS

MAY I HAVE ANOTHER?

Despite some first-half hustle from Hamilton's squad, the boys in blue roll behind center's 32 points PAGE 7

WEATHER

TODAY Mostly sunny, H 52, L 38
SATURDAY PM showers, H 60, L 32
SUNDAY Partly cloudy, H 54, L 35

