

Future of pilot music program still unclear

BY SHARI FELD
STAFF WRITER

When former Student Body President Matt Calabria set out to bring legal music downloading to UNC students, he knew it would be a long-term process.

"We started this year just trying to set the ball in motion at UNC," Calabria said. "This is a major project and definitely takes time to develop."

"If we want this program to continue, it's going to take some effort on the part of UNC administrators and students."

But as the pilot music downloading program reaches its end this semester, its exact future is unclear, officials said.

During the last four months, UNC-CH students have been able to test one of four legal downloading programs: Cdigix, Napster, Rhapsody and Ruckus Network.

UNC has yet to decide which, if any, of these programs it will provide for students.

Now, Student Body President Seth Dearmin said he will pick up where Calabria left off.

Dearmin said the biggest challenge is getting student feedback.

"Once we have the data on students' opinions, we'll be able to move forward," he said.

He said he likely will use several strategies to collect student feedback, including e-mail, online surveys and Pit sits.

The UNC-system Office of the President made the initial arrangements for the pilot program at UNC-Chapel Hill, which mirrors the program at N.C. State University.

Three other system schools have pilot downloading programs, but with fewer providers.

But now it is up to individual universities to decide how to handle the situation. The Office of the President will serve to facilitate and coordinate programs after university officials make their decisions.

If they decide to move forward, officials must choose between two payment options — a site license or "opt-in, opt-out."

A site license would allow all students to use the downloading service. It would be the easiest to manage but likely would result in a new student fee.

The opt-in, opt-out option would allow students to choose whether to pay to use the program.

Dearmin said he would prefer that option if a majority of students are not interested in the program.

"There's no reason for (students) to pay a student fee if they're not

getting benefits from the student fee," he said, noting that he would favor a site license if there is overwhelming student support.

Not everyone is worried about the negative effects associated with opt-in, opt-out.

Tom Warner, director of coordinated technology management for the UNC-system, said that as long as billing happens directly between a company and students, there should not be a problem.

"When the school gets into the stream of billing, then you have a logistical nightmare," he said.

The need for a widespread legal music downloading program was highlighted recently when the Recording Industry Association of America lodged a \$3 million lawsuit against a Duke junior for illegal file-sharing.

Recording industry officials have said they intend to sue hundreds of college students who illegally download music on Internet2.

Jeanne Smythe, director for computing policy, said that no matter the outcome of the pilot, she's been pleased with the process.

"It certainly was well-received, and we learned a lot from it, too."

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DANCE

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In addition, Kamikazi also brings its members together despite any ethnic differences among them.

"We have dancers of pretty much every ethnicity, and just the fact that we can all come together and have a good time and incorporate many styles of dancing just goes to show the

beauty of diversity," Kim said.

Several groups on campus cater to even more specific disciplines. Tamasha focuses on South Asian forms of dance, while others like Blank Canvas and Modernextension strive to combine varying styles into their routines.

Even students who have never attended one of the many recitals on campus might find themselves familiar with the Star Heels, the dance team responsible for half-

time entertainment at football and basketball games.

Despite the sweat dancers pour into their acts every week, Kim stressed the rewards of the commitment they make.

"It's so much fun — you establish a lot of great relationships that you carry on after you are on the dance team."

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PRESIDENT

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student body president, acknowledged that Piavis' humorous campaign drew attention and votes but said that if The Pirate Captain does not take the job seriously, the school's students will suffer.

"(N.C. State) students picked someone who is very popular," he said. "I hope that is coupled with the potential to help the student body."

Although Piavis' unique campaign techniques — which included a parrot, a slew of crew members and a plank in place of a platform — proved successful, NCSU students will be barred in the future from competing under an assumed name.

The NCSU Student Senate recently passed an amendment prohibiting future candidates from running under an alias. Election statutes at UNC-CH already require candidates to provide their legal name to be included on the ballot.

Without such restrictions, The Pirate Captain captured the presidency and celebrated with his scurvy

"We just be hopin' (the Student Senate) bae showin' us the respect that should bae had."

WILL "THE PIRATE CAPTAIN" PIAVIS, NCSU STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT-ELECT

crew. While his followers toasted his success at East Village Bar & Grill, Piavis seemed more serious, with the great task of leading the student body looming before him.

Student Senator Scott Stephenson said students view student government as rather ineffective and question if it really has any effect on the quality of campus life.

Stephenson said Piavis paid more attention to student needs than did his competitors and called the Captain a much-needed breath of fresh air. "I think that

he brings something different to the table," Stephenson said. "He's already shown he can get the students behind him."

Dearmin said one obstacle Piavis will face is proving that he is more than just a jokester.

"He is going to have a little bit of a tough time making people think he's serious about the work he's doing," he said. "At the same time, there's nothing saying he can't do it."

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FRESHMEN

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study abroad opportunities.

The overnight tour includes spending the night on campus with a UNC student, sitting in on a class and a dinner in the Pope box at Kenan Stadium with a performance by Tar Heel Voices.

"The overnights are for the high achieving. They are the top 10 percent of our admitted class, based on all the criteria of admittance," said Dave Meredith, assistant director of admissions.

He also said the sessions serve a vital function for the admissions process.

Typically, 60 percent of students who attend the program already have decided to attend UNC, while the remaining 40 percent use the time to decide if UNC is the right fit, he said.

"The programs help students see what Carolina has to offer," Meredith said.

"A mother came up to me today and said, 'OK, you did it. She's coming here. Where do I sign up?'"

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ABORTION

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Rustin noted the 1995 case of a Wake County teenager who forged her mother's signature. The doctor did not verify the signature before performing the procedure, and the girl's parents sued the clinic.

"The courts ruled that the doctor was under no obligation to make sure the signature was valid," Rustin said.

"We support the bill because it's common-sense legislation. It's straightforward, and it closes the loophole while preserving the original law's intent."

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COHEN

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Committee members said they were impressed that the honor system was able to negotiate Cohen's fee down from his normal price range of \$10,000 to \$12,000. They added that his \$8,500 price tag is worth the entire day he will spend on campus.

"It's well planned out," said Speaker Pro Tem Kris Gould. "He'll be around campus all day talking to a variety of students."

Finance Committee Chairwoman Anisa Mohanty added that Congress had room to be generous.

"We have the money. I don't see a problem with giving it out," she said.

Although committee members said they were pleased with the preparedness of the groups that attended, members said they were disappointed that only three of the nine groups slated to appear actually came to the meeting.

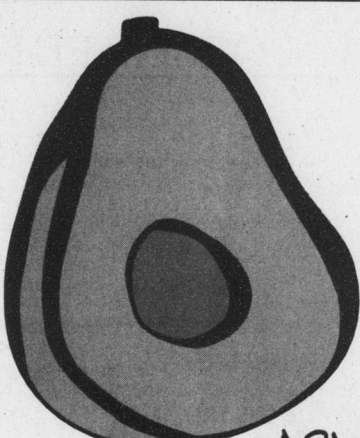
"It was one of the smoothest meetings I've seen," Mohanty said. "I was a little surprised that so few groups showed up, though."

Committee members also recommended allocating \$2,041.91 to the Carolina Production Guild for production costs and \$173.20 to the UNC Economics Club to cover speaker expenses.

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