

Family relieved by law's passing

Hopes to prevent future incidents

BY JABEEN AHMAD
STAFF WRITER

Two years to the day after Stephen Gates' hit-and-run death, his family finally has a dim silver lining.

Gov. Mike Easley signed into law House Bill 217, better known as Stephen's Law, on Sunday.

"In the past two years we have had very little to celebrate," said Pat Gates, mother of Stephen Gates. "The signing of Stephen's Law brings hope out of a tragic situation."

The law amends the current North Carolina hit-and-run statute to hold not only drivers but also passengers accountable for failure to stop in the event of an accident.

It goes into effect Dec. 1. "These laws send the message, once again, that North Carolina is tough on crime," Easley said in

a press release on Stephen's Law and other vehicular legislation Sunday.

After months of work on the legislation, Gates' family was glad the law named in the former Tar Heel Sports Network reporter's honor is now in effect, but wished they had been present for the signing.

"We had hoped to be present for the signing, but we were disappointed and surprised that it was privately signed yesterday," Pat Gates said.

She said that her son is still a part of her life.

"We continue to learn things about him. We think about him and talk about him a lot," she said.

Gates died in a hit-and-run accident in 2003 when an SUV driven by then-N.C. State University senior Emily Caveness



Former Tar Heel Sports Network reporter Stephen Gates was killed by a hit-and-run driver.

struck him.

Caveness stopped the vehicle about 800 yards from the accident and switched seats with another passenger, Rabah Samara, before leaving the area.

Both Caveness and Samara were charged with fleeing the scene of the accident.

But Samara was acquitted of all charges due to a loophole in the previous hit-and-run statute.

Caveness pleaded guilty to a lesser charge.

The judge at Samara's trial drew attention to the possibility of acquittal due to the loophole, Pat Gates said.

In order for a person to be held responsible for hit-and-run under the previous statute, he or she alone must hit the victim, cause injury, acknowledge the hit and flee, said N.C. Rep. Pricey Harrison, D-Guilford.

"Because different drivers did the

"The signing of Stephen's law brings hope out of a tragic situation."

PAT GATES, MOTHER

hitting and the fleeing in the Gates case, no one was held accountable for his death," she said of the incident.

After the incident, the Gates family worked with Harrison to amend the loophole in the state's current law.

"Stephen's Law closes the loophole exposed by the tragic accident of Stephen Gates," Harrison said.

"Now, both the driver and the passenger are held accountable."

The stricter text might prevent future incidents.

"Hopefully, the law will discourage hit-and-run," Harrison said. "It will also make it easier to prosecute hit-and-run."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

INTEGRATION

FROM PAGE 3

Perry says he believes divisions are formed not only along racial lines. "More likely than not, people who share interests you're passionate about come from the same background," he says.

Dolbee says he thinks self-selection plays a role.

"You gravitate toward people you suspect have had similar life experiences," he says. "A lot of it is your socioeconomic background."

Senior Ana Cerna, president of the Carolina Hispanic Association, says she supports integration but stresses maintaining a cultural identity.

"I think it's important to integrate, but I also think it's important to keep in mind what's important to your culture," she

says.

Having explored the causes of self-segregation, the next question is: How can East meet West?

All the interviewed students considered diversity and integration to be desirable.

Some say the problem cannot be solved, that it's human nature for the groups to be divided.

The individual is key, Perry says. University officials should work to foster interactions among races, he says, but ultimately, individuals must "branch out" and leave their comfort zone.

Dolbee agrees. "When you're growing up, you have to be with a diverse group of people," he says.

"Then it's not 'those people' anymore — it's 'my friends.'"

Contact the Features Desk at features@unc.edu.

ZAFFRON

FROM PAGE 3

proposed satellite campus.

"We're one of the players, and some of the property is in our jurisdiction," he said.

"What I think is interesting is the proposal The Village Project put forward," said Zaffron, noting the more housing and less parking suggestion. "It's really worthwhile to take a deep breath, step back and take a look at these really thoughtful approaches."

Zaffron said University can play a role in helping the town build a Bolin Creek preservation area.

"Ultimately what we'd like the University to do is to put (Bolin Creek) into perpetual conservation," he said.

Zaffron would like to see the University use the cutting-edge storm water retention techniques

the Pacifica mixed-use development already has in place.

He also wants to push for doubling the square footage of marketable space downtown.

"We're just flat out of space downtown," he said. "That speaks to the success we've had as a cultural district. We want to extend the notion of a community living room."

Zaffron also wants to push for stricter affordable housing rules.

"According to interpretations of state law, we're not allowed to do strictly inclusionary zoning," he said.

"We've been working on these work-arounds. ... My preference is to go back to stronger mechanisms."

"You have to be willing to be creative. It takes years and it takes persistence."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

BEST BUDDIES

FROM PAGE 3

"I enjoy spending time getting to know all the buddies, because they each have really great characteristics," she says.

"We all realize how much the buddies appreciate our presence and effort in making their everyday lives more fulfilling."

Lambert says she has noticed her buddy become more outgoing during the course of their friendship.

"We were pretty good friends from the get-go," she says. "As time has gone on, her sense of humor and confidence have sky-rocketed."

Nohe says being in the program gives buddies a chance to do normal activities they've missed out on, such as listening to music in a student's residence hall.

"It's so normal to so many people, but to them it's such an opportunity," she says.

These experiences help buddies learn to get along with co-workers and make future friends, says

Nohe.

"We're hoping that more and more what we're doing is creating an inclusive society," she says.

Participants also say another important characteristic of Best Buddies is that it's a mutual learning experience.

Sophomore Sarah Truluck, now co-chairwoman of the program, joined UNC Best Buddies at the beginning of last year after spotting a poster in her residence hall.

"It helps teach you a lot about not judging people at face value," she says. "You just have to be patient."

She says what she likes most about her interaction with the buddies is their expressiveness.

"They're just really not afraid to say 'I love you,'" she says.

"It's just really touching because a lot of people our age are wary of saying 'I love you' or being affectionate."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

MOREHEAD

FROM PAGE 3

Chesebrough plans on getting the center connected to other academic fields, through institutions such as the Ackland Art Museum.

His ideas for making changes in the planetarium are in line with what is expected of the new director.

"Museums are changing," said Peter White, chairman of the search committee and professor of biology. "David Chesebrough is a super

leader in the museum field."

White said the candidates will not be compared with each other until the end of the forums, which run until Oct. 12. Committee members decided against setting a deadline, instead favoring an exhaustive process.

The next candidate forum is for Ryan Wyatt, science visualizer for the American Museum of Natural History. It is scheduled for 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Morehead Faculty Lounge.

Contact the University Editor at uodesk@unc.edu.

CHILTON

FROM PAGE 3

use," he said. "I think that we need to build on our partnerships with the nonprofit organizations that do this kind of work."

In addition to affordable housing concerns, Chilton also stresses his ideas for economic issues.

One way Chilton said smart growth could be addressed in downtown Carrboro is by changing the way projects are approved.

Chilton said the Board of Adjustment now approves applications for developments that measure less than one acre — the size of most downtown properties.

Chilton said that with some larger downtown projects, having the aldermen review applications is important because they are able to negotiate with the developer.

Chilton proposed that the review

be based on building size.

When it comes to preserving the Bolin Creek corridor, Chilton also has some thoughts.

"One, we need to designate a preservation area that will be sort of our long-term plan for what we want to see on the corridor," he said. "I believe we need to improve Carrboro's stream buffers, which are in some cases as little as 15 feet."

Chilton said he likes the walkability of Carrboro for him, his wife and two sons.

"I live real near downtown, and it's great to be able to walk to Weaver Street Market and the Farmer's Market and cultural events downtown," Chilton said. "That's what we love about being in Carrboro."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

TEE TIME ALERT!

★★★★★
Golf Digest's Places to Play

STUDENTS & FACULTY
Play golf at The Challenge for only...

\$25⁰⁰ **\$19⁰⁰**

Monday-Friday Only
Includes your green & cart fee

Walking Rate
Monday-Friday Only

Must show University ID at check-in. Good for up to four players. Tee time is required. Expires 12/31/05.

Tee Times: (336) 578-5070
www.TheChallenge.com

Under New Ownership • Pinnacle Golf Properties

CLOTHING OPTIONAL

Now you can get low-cost birth control with or without a pelvic exam. Finding out if you can take advantage of the no-exam option is quick, easy, and confidential. Call to find out more and make an appointment, 919-942-7762.

942-7762
1765 Dobbins Dr
Chapel Hill

Planned Parenthood
of Central North Carolina, Inc.
www.plannedparenthood.org/ppnc
Day and Evening times available

286-2872
820 Broad St
Durham

Sign your group up to work SMITH CENTER EVENTS!

NCAA
FINAL FOUR
St. Louis

NORTH CAROLINA
2005
NCAA DIV. I
MEN'S
BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONS!

Interest meeting
Dean E. Smith Center
October 6, 2005 @ 6 pm
Come in at Entrance A

★ USERS ★
TICKET TAKERS
BAG CHECKERS
CLEAN-UP CREW

ATTENTION CAMPUS GROUPS!

GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.
CONTACT: CLARA ANDREWS
843-9921 • candrews@uncnc.unc.edu

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU'LL BE IN ATTENDANCE!

Panera BREAD

Chill with your friends!
Hearty Sandwiches!
Delicious Soups!
Freshly Tossed Salads!
Espresso Drinks!
Bagels, Breads + Pastries!

213 W. Franklin Street
Just in front of Granville Towers

Phone - 929-9189
Fax - 929-9186

Mon-Thurs 6:30AM-9PM
Fri/Sat 6:30AM-10PM
Sunday 7:30AM-9PM

Free Bagel
With purchase of any Espresso Drink, I.C. Drink, or Hot Chocolate.

Save \$1.00
On any Sandwich, Salad or "You-Pick-Two."

Valid at Panera Bread locations in the Triangle. Valid through October 18, 2005.

Valid at Panera Bread locations in the Triangle. Valid through October 18, 2005.

TRIANGLE CYCLES.com

**GAS PRICES????
PARKING?? TRAFFIC??
ARE YOU HAVING FUN?**

**IN STOCK!!!!
VENTO SCOOTERS**

TRIANGLE CYCLES
4503 Chapel Hill Blvd. • Durham, NC
919-489-7478
www.trianglecycles.com

Donna the Buffalo
John Anderson
Mamar Kasey
Tift Merritt
The Dukhs
Avett Brothers
Mamadou Diab
Bío Ritmo
Railroad Earth
Larry Keel
Keith Frank
and many more...

Shakori Hills

YesssRoots Festival
Music & Dance

Student Discount!
\$5 off single day tickets

Oct. 6, 7, 8, 9 Silk Hope, NC

Info: 919-542-8142

Four days, Four Stages with more than Fifty bands, Dance Tent, Kids Area, On-site Camping, Foods, Crafts, Workshops, Fiddler's and Band Competition, Poetry Slam and great friendly folks! All on 75 beautiful acres in Chatham County, North Carolina. Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Triangle area)

www.shakorihills.org