

Lottery leaders pledge loyalty to education

BY ERIC JOHNSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The N.C. lottery commission met for the first time Thursday, and by its very first official act sought to reassure supporters and skeptics alike that it will not lose sight of its reason for being.

"Clearly all of us who sit around this table, whether they were for the lottery or against it, are excited about the potential it brings for education," said commissioner Kevin Geddings. "I move that we name this enterprise the North Carolina Education Lottery."

By unanimous consent, the motion passed.

The goal of the lottery is to provide funding for education, "beyond — and I emphasize 'beyond' — that already provided by the state and local governments," said commission Chairman Charles Sanders.

While acknowledging that commissioners have little power to direct the use of lottery funds, he said they could work to bring public attention to key issues.

"We're living in a society which is going to depend on training and retraining people for different kinds of jobs as needs change," he said. "Therefore, the higher education support is particularly useful in terms of our economy right now."

Aside from reaffirming their commitment to providing new revenue for public education, commissioners spent a great deal of time discussing ways to avoid any ethical conflicts within the panel.

"My goal is to make these meetings — and the lottery as a whole — as open as possible," Sanders said. "Where there is a great deal of money involved, as there is here, there must be transparency and a clear code of ethical conduct."

Perry Newson, executive director of the state's Board of Ethics, spoke at length on the need to avoid any appearance of impropriety among

commissioners.

"You have been appointed to the most high-profile and intensely scrutinized public body in the state," he told the commission.

Geddings already has come under fire for his close relationship with several private companies that might bid for a role in administering the state's lottery.

In opening remarks Thursday, he pledged to abstain from any final vote to select a private vendor to run the game.

"I in no way want to give any appearance of impropriety," he said, adding that he learned a lot from his work with private companies and never had attempted to hide those relationships.

Sanders said one of the first priorities for the commission will be to draft a code of conduct, and members suggested that it likely would include a rule to prevent any contact between commissioners and private vendors outside of official meetings.

The commission made only brief mention of advertising, which has been one of the more contentious issues surrounding the lottery, but might form a subcommittee to make recommendations on the subject.

"In the early days, I don't think advertising will be much of an issue," Geddings said after the meeting. "I think there's such built-in, pent-up desire to buy lottery tickets in North Carolina."

The commission will meet again Oct. 26, by which time Sanders said he hopes to have "a fair amount of work" completed on the search for an executive director.

Sanders said the director could become the highest paid state official. "That's what it takes to get the appropriate leadership, and we want to get the very, very best."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Arts groups kick off joint meetings

All genres represented at forum

BY BETH MECHUM
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of concerns last year that UNC's campus arts community faces communication gaps, a meeting this week seemed to be a step in the right direction.

The first students arts forum of the year took place Thursday at Hill Hall. It was attended by about 20 students and campus arts advocates, including Executive Director for the Arts Emil Kang and Student Body President Seth Dearmin, who has said he would work to improve the arts community.

"The arts groups coming together

is exactly what we want for all student groups," Dearmin said after the meeting.

The forum, organized by Molly Stapleton, chairwoman of the arts advocacy committee for student government, began last year as a way to connect art organizations on campus and work toward common goals. Representatives from theater, music and visual arts groups discussed topics including campus venue renovations and a new Web site to improve communication.

"Carolina Performs," the first main performance for most groups this year, was an issue. Many said a later

date in the spring would make for a better show. Stapleton also talked about the cooperation between groups, which has been lacking in recent years.

"There is an interest in working together, but there hasn't been a format," she said.

Mark Laabs, Dearmin's chief of staff, said a comprehensive online calendar — to be available in the coming weeks — will increase communication between groups. The calendar will use software that collects and compiles information about campus events.

Groups on campus will be able to send their dates of events and meetings to the Web site and it can be seen by all students, Laabs said. Renovations on Gerrard Hall

and Playmakers Theatre — part of the Arts Common renovation plans for North Campus — also were discussed.

Paul Kapp, campus historic preservation manager, said the renovations would not prohibit students from using the venues.

"I think it's safe to say that those spaces will be available for performances throughout this school year," he said.

After the meeting, Dearmin said the forum was a good way to foster communication between arts groups.

"The excitement in the room was so awesome."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For more information go to www.unc.edu/redcross.

■ There will be an Intergalactic Bead and Jewelry Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Arts and Community Center, 622 Corrigidor St., in Mebane. Go to beadshows.com for more information and coupons.

■ The Friends of Bolin Creek is hosting the second Bolin Creek Festival from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at Umstead Park in Chapel Hill.

■ The Walk for Education will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday following the Race for Education. A carnival will be held at Lincoln Center following the walk.

■ First Calvary Baptist Church, at 1311 Morehead Ave. in Durham, will host a free Hurricane Katrina relief benefit concert at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Proceeds will go to the White Oak Foundation, a nonprofit organization that is sponsoring a number of displaced Katrina victims. The gospel music performance will feature Deliverance and Phyllis Gillespie, among other groups.

■ The Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership will meet at 7:30 a.m. Monday in the Bill Cherry Board Room in the Bank of America building in downtown Chapel Hill. Board members will hear an update on the downtown wireless Internet initiative.

■ "New Directions in American Indian Research: A Gathering of Emerging Scholars" will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at The Carolina Club at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center. It will focus on the work of graduate students and senior-level undergraduate students.

■ An infant and child CPR course will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in Union 3503.

■ Lab! Theatre will present Michael Frayn's "Noises Off!" at 8:15 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday in Playmakers Theatre. The show, directed by Matt Farabee, involves three acts of physical comedy and love triangles. The performances are free.

■ Kappa Sigma and Chi Omega are hosting a hurricane benefit party today at Pantana Bob's. There will be a live band on the patio from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and a DJ from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. All proceeds, including a raffle and a T-shirt sale, will go to hurricane victims.

■ The University insurance committee will meet from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. today in the Administrative Office Building, room 1402.

■ The chancellor's committee on student fees will meet from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. today in South Building 105 to discuss the athletic and technology fees.

To make a calendar submission, visit www.dailytarheel.com for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

POLICE LOG

■ An unidentified suspect was reported to have stolen a DVD from Blockbuster Video, 1702 E. Franklin St., on Wednesday night, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

The suspect wrapped the DVD, believed to be \$21.99 in value, in a hat and walked out of the store, reports state.

The case is under further investigation, according to reports.

■ A 62-year-old Chapel Hill woman reported a suspicious circumstance in her home Wednesday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

She discovered a spot of a red substance in her apartment at 10 a.m., according to reports.

■ A Chapel Hill man was the victim of breaking and entering and larceny Wednesday afternoon, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

An unidentified suspect broke the window of the victim's 2001 Toyota Tacoma, which was parked at 1414 Raleigh Road, and stole a cell phone inside, reports state.

The phone was valued at \$200 and the damage to the vehicle at \$200, according to reports.

■ A Chapel Hill woman reported harassment Wednesday evening, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

The victim reported receiving harassing phone calls at her home at 7:28 p.m. by an unknown male, reports state.

■ Chapel Hill High School, 1709 High School Road, was the scene of a public fight at 4 p.m. Wednesday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Justin Michael Powell, 17, of Carrboro and Chapel Hill resident Tyrone Keith Riggsbee, 16, also known as TK, engaged with each other in a fight in the school's court

yard, reports state.

The suspects were both cited with one count of affray and are due in district criminal court in Hillsborough on Nov. 7, reports state.

■ A Chapel Hill woman was reported to be the victim of assault at 9 p.m. Monday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

An unnamed suspect had been arguing with the victim in her home and assaulted her by grabbing her around the neck, reports state.

■ Police reports state that the rear window of a 1995 Toyota Camry was busted out by a baseball Oct. 5.

The car was parked in Boshamer Stadium parking lot on Ridge Road, according to reports.

The damage is estimated at \$200 and the incident is still under investigation, reports state.

■ A bicycle valued at \$150 was stolen from the front of Hanes Art Center on Oct. 5, according to police reports.

The bike was last known to be secure at 11 a.m. and was gone by 2 p.m., reports state.

There are currently no suspects, and the incident is undergoing further investigation, according to reports.

■ A laptop was reported stolen from McGavran Greenberg Building, police reports state.

The laptop was left in room 1305 at 7 p.m. Oct. 3., according to reports. When its user returned to the room to retrieve it at 9 a.m. Oct. 5, the laptop was no longer there, reports state.

The incident is under further investigation, according to reports.

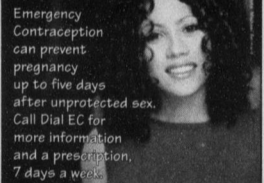
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