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UNC Hospitals workers flagged

BY ERIN ZUREICK
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

According to a report released Monday by the state auditors office, 17 UNC Hospitals employees used faulty documentation to obtain their jobs.

Eight workers have been terminated and nine others resigned.

Three employees were using Social Security numbers of deceased individuals, four were using invalid numbers and 10 others had names that did not match the records of the Social Security

Administration.

The majority of employees identified worked in housekeeping or dining, said Lynn Wooten, spokesman for UNC Hospitals.

The report also noted that the hospitals had not performed a quarterly verification of employee Social Security numbers.

These checks are not required by law but are recommended, said Chris Mears, director of public affairs for the Office of the State Auditor.

State agencies, however, are

required to verify that all hires are eligible to work in the United States.

Employers have been able to access the Social Security Administration's database for about a year to check the status of their employees. Wooten said UNC Hospitals had problems making the transition to this new system.

"Everything is now in place, and we will immediately begin quarterly verifications," Wooten said.

Mears said the problems stemmed from older hires.

"As far as new hires, they are checking them in accordance with the law."

Of UNC Hospitals' 6,000 employees, 24 originally were flagged as potential violators, but seven employees were cleared after further investigation. Of those, some had Social Security numbers that were keyed into the payroll system incorrectly.

Bill Roper, CEO of UNC Health Care, declined comment Monday.

Mears said the report is part of a strategic-review initiative by

the auditor's office. He said UNC Hospitals isn't the only agency or university to be investigated.

"This is the fourth of its kind recently," Mears said, noting that N.C. Central University, N.C. State University and the N.C. Department of Justice all have been under the microscope in recent months.

The N.C. State audit found eight employees using social security numbers that matched deceased

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UNC Hospitals Social Security number problems

► A report released Monday by the N.C. Office of the State Auditor revealed that 17 employees of UNC Hospitals had problems with faulty documentation.

► Four employees were signaled as having invalid Social Security numbers.

► Three employees were using Social Security numbers belonging to a deceased person.

► Ten others had names that did not match those of the Social Security Administration.

AUDIENCE SOLD ON SHOW



DTH PHOTOS/LAUREN COWART

As Angel Schunard, Melvin Bell III portrays a transvestite street drummer infected with HIV in the song "Today 4 U" in Monday's performance of "Rent" in Memorial Hall. Tickets were sold out for the event. Schunard's role is crucial to the play, his life serving as a message of hope in the AIDS epidemic.

'Rent' leaves Memorial Hall crowd in awe with praise

BY HARRY KAPLOWITZ
ARTS EDITOR

Emil Kang, UNC's executive director of the arts, had never seen the Broadway musical "Rent" before Monday's night premiere at Memorial Hall.

But despite that, Kang said he was very impressed by the performances given by the traveling troupe.

The company, which has been on tour since February 2006, will play another show today at 7:30 p.m.

"I think the show is wonderful," Kang said during the musical's intermission. "I think it's this generation's version of 'Hair' in the way everyone just knows the words and is singing right along."

The sell-out crowd was brought into the show by key performers, including Tracy McDowell

(Maureen) and Melvin Bell III (Angel). Mooring along with McDowell in her rendition of "Over the Moon," the crowd showed that "Rent," though not the first-choice musical for the Carolina Performing Arts Series, was, indeed, the right one.

"I could've told you the audience loved the performance before the show even started," Kang said.

"It's an amazing, personal experience."

As a diverse crowd of UNC students and Chapel Hill residents filed out of Memorial Hall minutes after the performance received a standing ovation, chatter could be heard with words such as "fabulous" and "incredible" echoing throughout the Memorial Hall lobby.

"I thought the performance was amazing," said Mark Hamblet, 51. "I can't understand why they only keep these shows for two days."

"It just seems so quick — they build it all up, put on the shows and then just tear it all down," the Chapel Hill resident said.

Hamblet also said he was impressed that the play's message of struggling through love and dis-

SEE RENT, PAGE 6



Harley Jay performs to the song "Tango: Maureen" as Mark Cohen during the first act of the Broadway musical "Rent" in Memorial Hall on Monday night.

East teen pleads not guilty

Foster's defense points to insanity in hostage case

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
CITY CO-EDITOR

A 17-year-old student who took a teacher and student hostage in East Chapel Hill High School in April pleaded not guilty to all charges against him Monday in court, District Attorney Jim Woodall said.

William Barrett Foster pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to multiple charges, including two felony counts of second-degree kidnapping and one of discharging a firearm on educational property. Foster also faces two misdemeanor counts of assault by pointing a gun.

The charges come in response to an April 24 incident in which Foster took East Chapel Hill High civics teacher Lisa Kukla and a student, sophomore Chelsea Slegal, hostage after school.

Foster, then a junior at East Chapel Hill, held the two at gunpoint after locking them in Kukla's classroom, shutting off the lights.

Foster held the women in the classroom for about an hour while a soccer game went on just outside.

According to police reports, Foster was in possession of a shotgun, an air rifle and a hunting knife.

Kukla and Slegal eventually were able to talk the student out of shooting at either of them.

"I want to thank ... Mrs. Kukla, for staying behind me and keeping my courage up," Slegal said in a release in April. "I did my best to talk to him and understand what his problems were."

Kukla recently was named Citizen of the Year by the North Carolinians Against Gun Violence Education Fund for her behavior with Foster during the incident.

After being comforted by the two women, Foster instead fired two shots out the classroom window, police reports state.

He then left the building and led the police on a chase through nearby woods, eventually returning to his house, where his mother drove him to the hospital.

Foster could not be arrested until he was released from the hospital. He had been mentally unstable for some time, according to his father.

Foster was charged in June on the charges listed in the warrants issued in April.

Woodall said Monday a judge had deemed Foster fit to appear in court.

SEE FOSTER, PAGE 6



William Foster is facing three felony counts and two misdemeanors.

ANALYSIS

BOG cap mirrored elsewhere

BY ALLISON NICHOLS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The UNC-system Board of Governors is not alone in introducing a measure of predictability in a time of spiraling higher education costs.

Public universities across the nation are examining how increasing predictability, affordability and access augments their mission as schools of the people.

Changing demographics have created a need for higher education in order to achieve financial success in the middle class, said Demaree Michelau, project coordinator in policy analysis and research at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

"The notion of making college accessible so that students can succeed is critical," said Michelau, helps states

align appropriation, tuition and financial aid policy.

Setting tuition policy

How tuition for public institutions is determined varies greatly among the states. The new UNC-system plan capping the increase for in-state tuition and most fees at 6.5 percent per year for the next four years introduces predictability for residents. By not limiting non-resident tuition, the plan leaves out-of-state students especially vulnerable to hefty hikes.

The UNC-CH Board of Trustees voted Thursday to ask for an additional \$1,250 from nonresident under-

SEE PREDICTABILITY, PAGE 6

More professors turn in late book orders

BY LAUREN BERRY
STAFF WRITER

If students noticed a lack of used books available this semester, professors might be the ones to blame.

The number of courses for which professors were late turning in their textbook orders increased from the fall semester, as did the number of courses for which book orders never were received.

Student Stores' managers said whether professors comply with

book order deadlines affects the managers' ability to find used books and also the amount students are paid during end-of-semester buy-backs.

"What it really comes down to is if we don't get the information early, the books won't be there," said John Jones, director of Student Stores.

"When we know a book is going to be used, we can usually pay a

SEE TEXTBOOKS, PAGE 6

Textbook orders

Orders submitted on time:

Fall 2005: 365
Spring 2006: 473
Fall 2006: 320
Spring 2007: 320

Orders submitted late:

Fall 2005: 1,463
Spring 2006: 1,166
Fall 2006: 1,125
Spring 2007: 1,210

Courses with no orders:

Fall 2005: 66
Spring 2006: 267
Fall 2006: 577
Spring 2007: 694

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JUST AVERAGE UNC scores a "C" on sustainable energy efforts, according to a Sustainable Endowments Institute report

PRINCIPALS' PALS UNC-system funds a program to train high school principals from schools that are underperforming



city | page 5

GOOD VS. EVIL

Local sportswriters discuss the recruiting wars and coaching battles that make the UNC-Duke rivalry so intense at an event at the Carboro Century Center.

campus | page 9

I SAW THE LIGHT

Student leaders and public safety officials go on a tour of South Campus to determine the lighting needed to ensure students' safety.

this day in history

JAN. 30, 1936 ...

Students are offered half-price (\$0.50) tickets to the President's Ball for President Franklin Roosevelt's birthday. The event offered a show, bridge and dancing.

weather

Mostly sunny
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