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Misdemeanor raises questions

Professor has arrest warrant in Ala.

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
SENIOR WRITER

A UNC professor has a warrant out for his arrest in Shelby County, Ala., prompting questions about the University's policy for faculty background checks.

Troy Adair, an adjunct assistant professor of finance at Kenan-Flagler Business School, is on the

most wanted list in Shelby County for domestic violence in the third degree, according to police.

"This involves a nonviolent dispute with my ex-wife," Adair said in an e-mailed statement. "I was not aware of this posting until recently."

The warrant is not extraditable, which means the UNC police do not need to take Adair into custody,

said Jeff McCracken, chief of UNC Department of Public Safety, after he talked to Shelby County police.

"Essentially, if he is back in the area that the warrant was issued, it would be served on him," he said, adding that he does not think Adair poses a threat to the campus.

The University implemented a policy July 1 to perform criminal conviction checks on all newly hired faculty, but it will not perform checks on current faculty members.



Professor Troy Adair's warrant raises concerns about UNC's policy for faculty background checks.

University officials said conducting checks on previously hired faculty members would be intrusive. "You've already got a lot of folks

who've been here for a long time and are presumably doing a good job," Executive Associate Provost Steve Allred said. "Why would you make them go through a process that said 'Yes, 25 years ago I had a DUI?'"

Some students said they were concerned about the lack of background checks for existing faculty members.

"If they're going to start checking new faculty, the first thing that should be done is make sure that

people we have now are good," freshman Elizabeth Stephens said.

UNC also does not require faculty members to disclose criminal convictions while employed at the University.

Allred said if a professor's conviction comes to light while employed at UNC, it is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, looking particularly at the nature and time of the crime.

SEE WARRANT, PAGE 11

WISH UPON A TREE

Students pledge gifts to children

BY MATTHEW PRICE
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Anika Fisher is getting into the holiday spirit by giving her favorite childhood board game to a child in need.

Fisher picked up a Wishing Tree ornament labeled "board game" Wednesday, and now she plans to give someone the childhood classic Chutes and Ladders.

Each ornament on the tree suggests a different gift to be given to a child who otherwise might not get a present this holiday season.

The Carolina Wishing Tree Foundation has donated toys and other wish-list items to local partners since 2003.

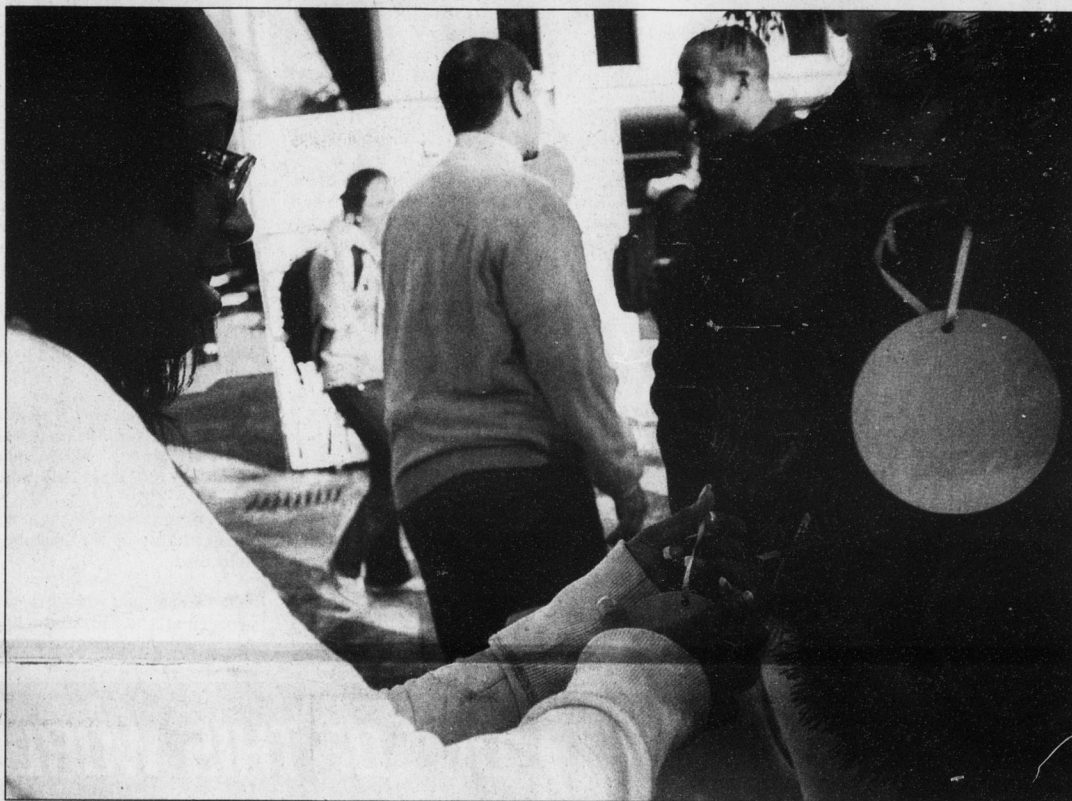
"I remember how exciting it was to open something cool on Christmas morning," Fisher said. "When you take the time to do this, it puts you in the spirit of giving."

While several campus groups are hosting fundraising drives to support charities during the holiday season this year, other groups, such as the senior class marshals, are getting in on the gift giving.

The senior class donated to Operation Christmas Child, a project of the international charity Samaritan's Purse, that sends wrapped gift boxes to children around the world.

"It's the first time we've done something like Operation Christmas Child that I know of," Service Chairwoman Lindsay Mirchin said. "We're normally working on the Habitat house, but this year we're making such good progress that we had more flexibility."

Mirchin said working with a large, established charity allowed the project to begin late in the



Anika Fisher selects a gift from the Wishing Tree, a service project for students to buy gifts for children in need, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. "I picked board games. I love Chutes and Ladders, so I might buy that," Fisher said.

year. The marshals contacted Greek organizations and other groups to create shoe boxes of presents. Mirchin said about 10 different groups donated several boxes on the Nov. 14 collection day.

"This time of year, everyone is really busy," Mirchin said. "But when you give a gift that you had to go to the store and pick out, giving becomes more personalized."

A presence at UNC for the past

INSIDE Local charities take up several causes for the holiday season. PAGE 11

staffing a booth in the Pit. "When people see the Wishing Tree, they know that Christmas is on the way," said LaToya Evans, co-president of the Carolina

Wishing Tree and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Gifts on the tree range from mechanical pencils to Easy-Bake Ovens.

In years past, Evans said the group has donated more than \$2,000 worth of gifts to local partners, such as the Hargraves Community Center.

This year's tree will sit in the Pit for four days, compared to the two weeks of previous years.

The tree was supposed to be in the Pit for a full week, but Monday's drizzly weather delayed the group's start.

"We're not trying to donate a million dollars," Evans said, regarding the group's shortened time. "We're trying to give the best we can — and people are always inspired to give."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Peace plan sparks talk

Speech to address Middle East peace

BY REBECCA PUTTERMAN
STAFF WRITER

When third-generation Holocaust survivor Shai Tamari joined the Israeli military in 1994, he believed that the Jews had a right to control the land of Israel and that the Palestinians had none.

Tamari's once-nationalist views are at the heart of the debate about who should live in the holy land of Israel, but his ideas changed when he studied the other side's history.

Now a rotary world peace scholar and a history graduate student at UNC, Tamari touts a two-state solution that he says should respect the history of suffering in both groups.

Tamari will lecture on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict tonight, after two days in which the world had its attention fixed on the subject.

President Bush met with the prime minister of Israel and the president of the Palestinian Authority, along with other Arab dignitaries, on Tuesday and Wednesday in Annapolis, Md., to hash out a plan for peace negotiations during the next year.

SEE PEACE, PAGE 11

ATTEND THE TALK
Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today
Location: Greenlaw Hall, Room 431

Fire destroys apartment building

BY SARA GREGORY
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A fire ripped through a Carrboro apartment Wednesday, destroying one building and injuring three emergency personnel.

Carrboro Fire-Rescue was dispatched to a structural fire at Ashbrook Apartments on Jones Ferry Road about 6:30 p.m.

The fire originated in the J building and was contained within about an hour. All residents have been accounted for and none were injured in the fire, Carrboro Fire-Rescue Capt. Kent Squires said.

Three emergency responders suffered minor injuries. The names of the responders were not available Wednesday night.

The three-story building contained 15 units. Firefighters

"Damage ranges from minor damage on some apartments to major damage on others."

KENT SQUIRES, FIRE-RESCUE CAPTAIN

found heavy fire when they arrived, with flames reaching above the trees.

"They had fire throughout the roof area," Squires said. "They started pulling lines, making initial attacks. They made very good headway on the fire."

The building's structure is stable enough to allow firefighters in the building, but it is not livable. An investigation into the cause of the fire will begin today.

"Damage ranges from minor

SEE FIRE, PAGE 11



A three-story, 15-unit apartment building in Ashbrook Apartments on Jones Ferry Road in Carrboro caught fire Wednesday night.

Article criticizes schools' air travel

Travel harmful to the environment

BY JACKI HUNTINGTON
STAFF WRITER

Despite the commitment of many in academia to environmental sustainability, the amount of air travel that most schools engage in isn't consistent with that mission, according to a recently published article on the Inside Higher Ed Web site.

Colleges and universities were criticized this week for their excessive indulgence in air travel by article authors Nikki Keddie and Joyce Appleby, professors emeritus of history at the University of California-Los Angeles.

"I was struck by the level of contribution of travel to global warm-

ing ... (and) the feeling that there are simply too many conferences and talks," Keddie said.

The authors cited frequent conference-going and recruitment travel as key environmental offenses of otherwise sustainability-conscious institutions.

For example, as the search committee for Chancellor James Moeser's replacement intensifies, nominees will fly to Chapel Hill to meet with committee members.

Nelson Schwab, committee chairman, justified the environmental impact of the search with its importance to the University.

"We've got to find the right candidate, and I'm not letting anything get in the way of that," Schwab said. He added that the process is a rare occurrence, hap-

SEE TRAVEL, PAGE 11

online

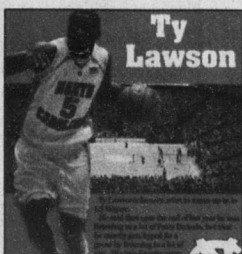
GOLDEN TICKET

American Airlines student representatives have placed 250 golden envelopes around campus, with one containing a free round-trip ticket for a lucky student.

arts | page 11

DEF JAM SPEAKER

Spoken-word artist Dana Gilmore, who has appeared on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, will perform at 7 p.m. today in the Student Union Cabaret.



diversions | page 5

JOCK JAMZ

Get a sampling of what tunes some members of the No. 1 UNC men's basketball team are listening to when they warm up to take on opposing teams.

this day in history

NOV. 29, 1979 ...

Morrison Dance Marathon is shortened from 12 hours to eight because of an N.C. statute prohibiting marathons and walkathons that last more than eight hours.

weather

Partly cloudy
index H 61, L 33

police log 2
calendar 2
games 10
sports 13
opinion 14