

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Online comments hurtful

Carson's killing draws offensive slurs

BY MATTHEW PRICE  
STAFF WRITER

In the past few weeks, online message boards have exploded with comments regarding the killing of Student Body President Eve Carson.

And when suspects were apprehended about a week after

her death, derogatory and racist remarks about the two black men charged with murder in the incident and black males in general began to appear on Web sites such as JuicyCampus.com.

"I was made aware of the comments on JuicyCampus.com when some students brought it to my

attention," said Archie Ervin, associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs. "I have talked to more than 20 students about these comments, and I can tell you that they're very hurtful."

The abundance of comments raises the issue of where to draw the line in regulating hateful speech.

The offensive speech was not itself grounds for University action, though there is a concern about

finding potentially threatening speech, Ervin said.

"Threatening speech is actionable," he said. "The University would not tolerate threatening speech to other members of the community. Hateful, hurtful speech is distinct from threats of physical harm or danger."

Ervin said Chancellor James

SEE WEB COMMENTS, PAGE 7

## SBP-elect must play catch-up

Now serving on chancellor search

BY KELLY GIEDRAITIS  
SENIOR WRITER

J.J. Raynor never expected to serve on the chancellor search committee.

But when the committee meets today, the student body president-elect will have three sessions under her belt.

And although the meetings allow Raynor the chance to contribute to the future of the University before she's even taken office, the opportunity emerged from tragedy.

Raynor is taking the position because Student Body President Eve Carson, who served on the committee, was killed March 5.

Carson's death occurred just as the chancellor search committee, charged with selecting three finalists for UNC's top spot, whittled down its applicants from more than 100 to about 20.

To ensure that undergraduates are represented, committee members invited Raynor to serve in Carson's place as the undergraduate representative.

"It's definitely one of the toughest things I've had to do recently just because I know why I'm there," Raynor said.

Committee Chairman Nelson Schwab said Raynor, who was appointed March 11, has become a vocal member of the committee, providing student perspective.

"She's hit the ground running and been a very active participant," Schwab said. "It's obviously a tough position considering all of the emotion around it ... but she's doing a very good job, as Eve did, as far as representing the students."

The committee, which was appointed in September, met six times with Carson. During that



J.J. Raynor has assumed Eve Carson's position on the chancellor search committee.

**ATTEND THE MEETING**

Time: 8:30 a.m. today  
Location: Morehead Building, Faculty Lounge  
Info: www.unc.edu/chan/search

time, the committee heard community input, solicited applicants, reviewed applications and interviewed candidates.

As Raynor settles in, the committee is moving ahead, with about 20 applicants being considered.

Raynor said committee members have helped ease her transition.

"They've been trying to help me make up for some of the knowledge gaps," she said.

Schwab said he has met with Raynor to provide background material to help her catch up on discussions.

Raynor said she also has continued to seek input from the students' chancellor search advisory committee, which Carson's administration created.

And with only two spots for students on the 21-person committee, members wanted to make sure students' voices continue to be heard.

"Certainly it's important that the student voice isn't diminished by not having another student there," said Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lauren Anderson, the only other student on the committee. "J.J. has been a quick study, especially under the circumstances."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

## DOG GONE GOOD

Tar Heels headed to New Orleans

BY POWELL LATIMER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

NORFOLK, Va. — No. 1 seed North Carolina ran and ran and, in the end, sprinted right past past eight-seed Georgia 80-66 Tuesday night at the Ted Constant Convocation Center.

Rashanda McCants led the Tar Heels with 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds, slicing through the Georgia defense time and time again.

"We were walking down the hall after the game, and I patted her. And I said,

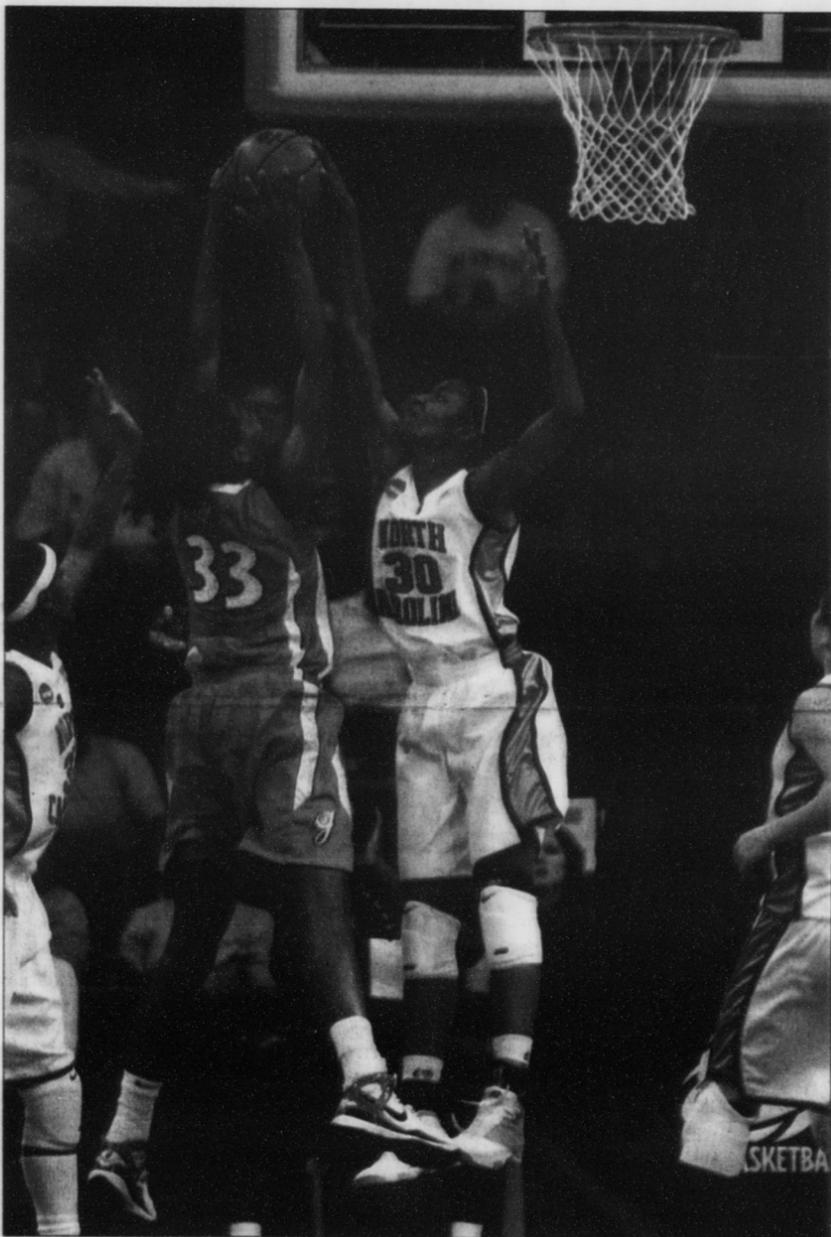
"Thanks!" UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said.

"I thought she made really good decisions on her penetration and her drives to the basket that made a major difference. She had

an outstanding game." Coming into the evening, UNC knew its strategy: Speed it up as much as possible to counter the Bulldogs' size advantage at almost every position. That started with UNC's frontcourt of Erlana Larkins and LaToya Pringle.

Larkins and Pringle did their jobs on the offensive end, with 28 points and 18 rebounds combined. More importantly, however, they shut down Georgia's front line throughout the evening, not only holding Georgia to four points in the paint in the first half but also proving they could out-muscle the Bulldogs.

UNC out-rebounded Georgia 37-32. Both of Georgia's starting forwards, Tasha Humphrey and Angel Robinson, were hampered by early foul trouble. While the Bulldogs struggled to dominate on the inside, their



North Carolina forward LaToya Pringle blocks a shot attempt by Georgia's Angel Robinson during UNC's 80-66 second-round win against the Bulldogs. With the win, UNC advances to this weekend's Sweet 16 in New Orleans.

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 7

## Actor Kel Mitchell hosts hip-hop contest

Teams from across state to compete

BY SETH WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

When Kel Mitchell arrives at UNC and takes the Memorial Hall stage today, he won't be selling "good burgers" with his special sauce. Instead he will be serving up some of the hottest hip-hop dance teams in the state.

The second annual "Show Us What You Got" dance competition, presented by Carolina Union Activities Board, will take place at 7 p.m. tonight in Memorial Hall.

Mitchell, best known for his role in the 1997 movie "Good Burger" and on the Nickelodeon show "Kenan and Kel," said he is excited to be hosting the event for the first time.

"I love speaking at schools. I love giving back to the community, and I love talking to students who aspire to do the same things that I've done," Mitchell said. "It's also great when you talk to the college kids — you guys grew up with me."

Last year's competition was performed in front of a full house at Memorial Hall and was hosted by Black Entertainment Television's Terrence Jenkins.

But this year, Marie Monroe, chairwoman of CUAB's performing arts committee, said the show will be different while still producing the same amount of energy.

"We wanted a different host, but someone that still had name recog-



Kel Mitchell, one-half of the Nickelodeon show "Kenan and Kel," will host the competition.

ognition," Monroe said. "Everybody knows Kel for his goofy, fun personality. He was more than happy to do it."

Unlike last year's event, this year's event is on a weeknight, but Monroe said she is optimistic that attendance will be high.

"I'm still hoping to get a very good turnout. We have given away about 700 tickets so far," she said.

The competition isn't limited to groups from UNC; dance groups from all across the state have been

**ATTEND THE CONTEST**

Time: 7 p.m. today  
Location: Memorial Hall  
Info: www.unc.edu/cuab  
Tickets: Free to UNC students, \$5 to general public

invited to fight for the winnings — a \$500 prize as well as a trophy.

Groups slated to perform include two of UNC's own — Opeyo! Dancers and Misconception Dance Company — along with others from North Carolina Central University and UNC-Pembroke.

Kareemah Lewis, president of reigning victors Opeyo!, said the audience can expect just as much intensity from the performance this year.

SEE CONTEST, PAGE 7

## Questions remain year after accident

Ray case going through court

BY ZACK TYMAN  
STAFF WRITER

One year ago, UNC lost a friend and student to a tragic accident.

Three months ago, two men were arrested in connection with his death.

Today a grieving mother still has questions that haven't been answered as the suspects in Jason Ray's death continue to defend their story.

Before the March 23, 2007, accident and his death three days later, Ray was one of three students who portrayed UNC's mascot, Rameses. He was accompanying the UNC men's basketball team at the NCAA tournament in East Rutherford, N.J., at the time.

Gagik Hovsepian, 52, and Armen Hovsepian, 26, of Paramus, N.J., are awaiting trial for involvement in the fatal accident.

For his mother, Charlotte Ray, the arrests haven't been enough to provide closure.

"He meant everything to me," she said. "It's hard to believe anything. ... Your mind plays tricks on you."

Gagik Hovsepian told police at the time of the accident that he was the driver of the car that struck Jason Ray. According to police statements, his son Armen Hovsepian was asleep in the passenger seat.

Witnesses came forward to say that Armen Hovsepian was actu-

*"It's hard to believe anything. ... Your mind plays tricks on you."*

CHARLOTTE RAY, MOTHER OF JASON RAY, FORMER UNC MASCOT

ally the driver of the vehicle, which led to the arrests in January.

Armen Hovsepian is being charged with driving with a suspended license involved with a death and hindering apprehension — charges that can carry penalties of five years in state prison and 18 months in state prison, respectively, Bergen County assistant district attorney John Higgins said.

Gagik Hovsepian also is charged with hindering apprehension.

"The matter is currently pending a presentation to the grand jury," Higgins said. "I expect that to be done within the next couple of months."

And as proceedings go on, Gagik Hovsepian is sticking by his story.

"The witnesses made a big mistake," he said Tuesday. "I have pictures and papers to prove my son could not be driving that night. I did not let my son drive. What stupid father would do that?"

For the Ray family the past year hasn't been easy.

"At Christmas time, it was awful," Charlotte Ray said. "It was the first Christmas I've spent with-

SEE JASON RAY, PAGE 7

online | dailytarheel.com

**CITY** The Downtown Partnership looks into a monthly market for local vendors.

**STATE & NATIONAL** UNC's Young Democrats and College Republicans debate.

**SPORTS** The UNC softball team shut out Elon 7-0, led by Lisa Norris' 16 strikeouts.

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**IT'S JUST A TEST**  
The University plans to test its alert sirens between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. An all-clear will also sound. Find out more about the alert system, pg. 3.



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**IN MEMORY**  
Junior varsity cheerleader Jeremy Crouthamel has received the Jason Ray Memorial Spirit Award in honor of the UNC mascot who died a year ago.

this day in history

**MARCH 26, 2003 ...**  
UNC heightens Internet security by encrypting messages sent through Carolina's wireless computing network so unauthorized people will see a scrambled message.

weather

Partly cloudy  
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