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UNC Charlotte's Student Senate has recommended UNCC merely suggest a 10-foot smoke-free zone in front of buildings, rather than a ban. Officials will decide in coming months how to respond to the laws.

## New laws douse a lot of smoking on campuses

### Cigarettes from IB

in at two forums scheduled for this week.

#### What other colleges are doing

Nationwide, nearly 31 percent of college students surveyed said they smoked in 2006, including 9 percent who reported smoking daily, according to the "Monitoring the Future" survey conducted last year by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

More than 300 colleges and universities have policies restricting smoking on campus or in campus housing, according to the California-based American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. The list doesn't include colleges that have banned smoking inside buildings except for housing.

Bronson Frick, associate director at the foundation, said the new N.C. laws are a step forward, but "will leave North Carolina's colleges and universities behind the rest of the country in terms of

having the right to simply make their campuses smoke-free in their entirety."

The N.C. law barring smoking in UNC system buildings is part of a larger bill to ban smoking in all state government buildings. Locally, Charlotte and Mecklenburg County leaders have sought authority to curb smoking in local establishments, but a bill to do that failed this summer.

In August 2006, Winthrop University in Rock Hill restricted smoking to 16 outside areas, based on a task force's recommendations. Frank Ardaiole, the school's vice president for student life, said he felt the first year went well, though leaders acknowledge the policy requires a change in campus culture.

"Eventually you build a new campus ethos so that everyone understands that there are only certain places where you can smoke," he said.

At ASU and East Carolina, leaders said the schools have been reviewing their smoking policies for years.

"I was expecting some pretty big complaints knowing that we

have 10 to 12 percent of our students that smoke on a regular basis," said Jeff Doyle, ASU's director of housing and residence life. "All I've heard is, 'Man, I'm glad you've finally done that.'"

#### 'Where do you draw the line?'

Still, not everyone supports the state universities stepping into the no-smoking debate.

Devin McRae, chairman of the Student Affairs Committee for UNCC's Student Senate, said its members felt setting limits on outside smoking would be difficult for the school to enforce.

McRae doesn't smoke but said many at the school do, and he was "blown away" when he heard about the new state laws. "I think it's just pushing the envelope too far," he said.

UNCC pre-med student Tyler Lee said he is conscious of others when he smokes, including asking if it would bother them.

But he said he doesn't think the university should tell smokers where they can light up, saying it takes away part of his freedom: "Where do you draw the line?"

### S.C. LOWCOUNTRY

## Gator-attack victim was careful, son says

Man recovering from loss of arm swam often in lake, knew dangers

By BRUCE SMITH  
Associated Press

CHARLESTON — A man who lost his arm this month in an alligator attack always checked both the shoreline and water for signs of gators before swimming, his son said Monday.

Bill Hedden, 59, is recovering at the Medical University of South Carolina from the attack in Lake Moultrie near Moncks Corner on Sept. 16.

The arm was retrieved from the gator, which was killed. But the injuries were so severe that doctors did not attempt to re-attach the limb.

Hedden has not met with reporters, but his son, Brian, 34, told reporters Monday that his father was always cautious before getting in the water.

"Bill recognizes that alliga-

tors are a potential threat anywhere on the lake or anywhere around the Lowcountry," the younger Hedden said. "Through 25 years of comings and goings to this area, he also felt the risk in this area was minimal."

His father checked the shoreline and water before getting into the lake and again when he got in the water, Brian Hedden said.

The elder Hedden, a retired Navy master chief from Summerville, swam in the lake three times a week for about an hour.

"It's just general exercise," his son said. "He usually does swim in a different area of the lake, but at that point in the afternoon it was really windy and really choppy, and he shopped for a little more secluded, calm area."

Bill Hedden was in the water for about five minutes before the attack occurred. Making his

way back to shore, nurses who happened to be at the recreation area applied pressure to the wound, stopping the flow of blood.

"To me these bystanders are the heroes of this story. Without their prompt action, Mr. Hedden may very well have bled to death," said Dr. Doug Norcross, an MUSC trauma surgeon who treated Hedden.

Brian Hedden said his father is in good spirits and will soon be released, although doctors have not determined exactly when he will be able to go home.

He said his father is amazed by the intense media interest.

"I don't think he has a grasp on it — just how big it got in the news media," he said. "He really thinks of himself as a normal person who had an extreme circumstance."

Hedden said he doesn't think the injury will slow down his father, an avid swimmer and fisherman. "I don't think it's changed his outlook on life in general," he said.



Brian Hedden

## Gantt joins transit debate

Vote from IB

the black community is that the light-rail line opening later this year doesn't go through heavily minority areas of east and west Charlotte, where transit ridership is highest.

The Charlotte Area Transit System has proposed building a streetcar along Beatties Ford Road to the Eastland Community Transit Center, with the first section opening in 2018.

That streetcar wasn't in the 1998 transit plan, and was added

by Charlotte Area Transit System chief executive Ron Tober after he arrived in 1999. But the Metropolitan Transit Commission has voted to build other rail projects first.

The Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg has expressed concern about whether a streetcar will bring the same economic benefits as the light-rail line, which has sparked a number of new residential and retail projects along South Boulevard.

Gantt and others said there may be frustrations over the tax, but that repealing it would im-

pact the bus system. About 65 percent of the tax revenue goes to fund the bus system.

"Forty-five percent of bus riders don't have driver's licenses," said Charlotte City Council member James Mitchell. "Light rail isn't the issue — it's about service."

State Rep. Beverly Earle, D-Mecklenburg, is running for mayor, and attended in support of the transit tax, though she declined to comment after the news conference.

Her opponent, Republican Pat McCrory, is also a transit tax supporter.

## Putting kids on college track

AVID from IB

lenburg middle and high schools offer AVID as an elective course, but West Meck expanded its program this fall.

While it's still an elective for juniors and seniors, freshmen are taking world history and an AVID course on alternating days, and all teachers are incorporating some of its strategies into their plans.

School leaders hope exposure to AVID strategies will help lower-achieving students and will prompt high-achieving students to push themselves.

Principal Charity Bell said she wants more students to think about going to college. Many West Meck students would be the first person in their families to get a higher education.

"We have kids here who have the ability. They just need someone to guide them," Bell said.

About 87 percent of West Meck's 2005-06 AVID graduates (13 of 15 students) applied to a four-year college or university, and all 13 were accepted. Nationally, more than 83 percent of AVID graduates applied to a four-year institution, and 75.4 percent were accepted.

The school now is providing AVID training to all teachers, so they are "speaking the same language" about college prep, Bell said. The teachers are encouraging students to use Cornell note taking — in which students write notes on the subject matter and then develop questions and summaries to help them digest it.

Students also are encouraged to keep all work in a binder that teachers will periodically check.

Freshman Tyresshia Baldwin, 14, said she would be lost without these organizational tools. This is the first year Baldwin has been exposed to AVID, and she's already taking better notes and has plans to apply to college.

School leaders hope that kind of response will show up in higher end-of-course test scores, said Kat Eaker, AVID district leader and AVID specialist.

West Meck's end-of-course pass rate rose 4.1 percentage points last spring to 51.1 percent of students, but that was still short of the state's benchmark of



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Tenth-grader Craig Leverette, 15, reads his group's response about the pros and cons of using a cell phone while driving.

a 70 percent pass rate.

Bell, who implemented AVID as principal at D.C. Virgo Middle School in Wilmington, watched test scores there rise 12 percentage points in three years. The school also earned a School of

Distinction honor.

"I'm a believer," Bell said.

For more information about AVID, visit [www.avidonline.org](http://www.avidonline.org).

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