

# Pro-choice Wattleton Criticizes Government

## Planned Parenthood Pres. Ends Speech With Call to Arms

By Natalie Baucum  
Ink Staff Writer

Faye Wattleton, president of Planned Parenthood, spoke about her views on abortion Feb. 10 in Memorial Hall.

Wattleton is the first woman and the first black to become president of Planned Parenthood. She has served as president for 14 years and will retire in March 1992.

In her speech, Wattleton stressed that people need to look at the big picture -- the fundamental issue of a woman and the power to control reproduction.

"The Bill of Rights was designed to create a wall of freedom between

people and politics so there could be privacy," she said.

Wattleton said she believes the government is now trying to rob a woman's privacy on the issue of abortion.

"We must not give up the power to control our private lives, regardless of our position on reproductive issues," she said.

Wattleton also said that if abortion was made illegal a lot of back alley abortions would become popular again. She added that unsafe illegal abortions would most likely lead to injuries or deaths in women.

"Women should never die because of someone else's beliefs," Wattleton said.

She said that the majority of the women who would be affected by the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* (1973), the Supreme Court case that legalized abortion, are minorities, particularly black women.

"Poor women should not have to be discriminated against because the government is debating over an issue that only concerns the rich," she said.

Wattleton cited her African-American sisters as one reason for her extensive involvement in the pro-choice movement.

"Will women let legislature tell them what to do with their bodies or will they say no and stand up to

them?" she asked. "Young women, especially teenagers, should have a choice."

Wattleton used her 16-year-old daughter, Felicia, as an example to explain just how unjust abortions laws are becoming.

"Felicia can have a baby without my permission but she cannot have an abortion," she said. "Family experiences cannot be regulated."

Wattleton then criticized the courts.

"The courts say that women are too immature to have an abortion but not too immature to have a baby."

Wattleton brought her speech to a close by encouraging people to

stand up to the leaders in Washington. "We the people need to make them understand that this is an issue they cannot put aside another time," she said. "It is time to pass a freedom-of-privacy act so women can control their own bodies."

Wattleton added: "Those who die will be those who do not vote and have the power to put down decisions in government. It will be those at the bottom of the social and economic ladder who suffer the most."

Wattleton plans to host her own talk show in Chicago after the expiration of her term as president of Planned Parenthood.

## What Have You Done for the Black Community Lately? Speaker Asks

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*Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, African Americans have the option to choose what type of school that they wish to attend. Predominately white schools offer students an individual-focused education. You are trained at a predominately-white school how to do what is necessary for you, the individual to succeed. HBCU's used to be the opposite. Traditionally at HBCU's, students were taught to

be accountable to their community. Blacks were educated for the benefit of blacks. But now that HBCU's have to compete with predominately-white schools for the enrollment of African-American students, they, too, have become more individual oriented. We must turn things around and re-root our institutions within our community.

What we, as African American students at a predominantly white

institution must do, is to hold the majority community accountable for the needs of our community. When is the last time that you checked to see who is being accountable to the black community? If you haven't checked recently, then you don't even know if you've sold out or not. We must learn to make this University what we want it. We must work strategically for the interests of our

community. We must not allow the University to pimp us with their Affirmative Action quotas. We must take everything that they claim to be doing for us "minorities" and make it work for our entire community. If the chancellor is going to create a \$100,000 committee called the Chancellor's Committee on Community and Diversity, then let's ask the Chancellor if he can spare a few thousand dollars from that committee to fund a program that we wish to set up in our community, namely COMMUNIVERSITY. Whenever they boast about what

they are doing for the minority students and community-at-large here in Chapel Hill, we must ask, "What are they doing for my community?" If the answer is nothing, then we must get out and raise some sand until they do what we want them to.

No my brothers and sisters, you don't have to be a sell out if you attend a predominantly-white institution, but you do have to check yourself. Ask yourself, "What have I done for my community lately?" If you can't think of anything then you need to ask yourself "Am I A Token Black?"

## Nominee for Board of Trustees Praised by Colleagues, Students

By Jacqueline Charles  
Ink Staff Writer

Richard Epps, the University's first black student body president, is one of several persons being considered for the Board of Trustees.

Student Body President Matt Heyd nominated Epps to fill the vacancy left by former trustee William Darity. Darity resigned in December.

"There's something special about Epps," Heyd said. "He would be a good addition to the campus."

Although Heyd made a total of three nominations for the position, he said he will directly nominate Epps. "Epps has an understanding of the campus that no one else have."

Epps, 40, graduated from the University with a journalism degree in 1973. As an alumnus, he has been active on the Board of Visitors and in the General Alumni Association.

If selected to the BOT, Epps will join Angela Bryant, a former Black Ink editor, on the board. Bryant was appointed last July.

"I feel its very appropriate that he got nominated," said Bryant, the only black presently on the BOT

and the first black female ever elected to the board. "He made lots of achievements in student government and has been faithful in his role as an alumnus."

Both Epps and Bryant were organizers of the first Black Alumni Reunion 11 years ago.

A private attorney with his own practice in Alexandria, VA., Epps first learned about the nomination six weeks ago.

"I was very pleased with the possibility," he said.

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