

The Scare Tactic: Curing Senioritis?

ANGELA ANTONY

Surely most seniors can recall the highly-publicized story of senior Mark Edmonson from Northwest Guilford High School in Guilford County, North Carolina. Edmonson, despite a 1600 SAT score and National Merit finalist status, had his admission to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill revoked due to a steep decline in his grades during senior year. With clippings of this article plastered all over the school, captioned with subtle admonitions such as, "SENIORS, THIS COULD BE YOU," it would not come as a surprise if the image still lingered in the minds of some students. The question is: does the scare tactic really work?

Senior McKenzie Burris does not seem to think so. "It didn't make me work any harder," she says, "because it seemed pretty unrealistic. I would never slack off to that extreme- not enough to get D's

and F's." Senior Jennifer Larrimore thinks differently; she says, "It actually did have an effect on me. I honestly didn't think that people really got accepted then rejected for bad grades... seeing the article everywhere definitely kept the fact that they are 'always watching' in the back of my mind."

The subtle threats are by no means limited to Science and Math billboards, either. As some seniors begin receiving their first college acceptance letters, their feelings of joy, rapture, and relief are often capped with a side order of guilt and/or anxiety from the last few sentences of the letter- the same few sentences that Mark Edmonson wrangled with desperately in court when he filed, and lost, his law suit against UNC. From mild cautioning such as, "...please remember that this offer of admission is contingent upon your continued strong academic performance," to more

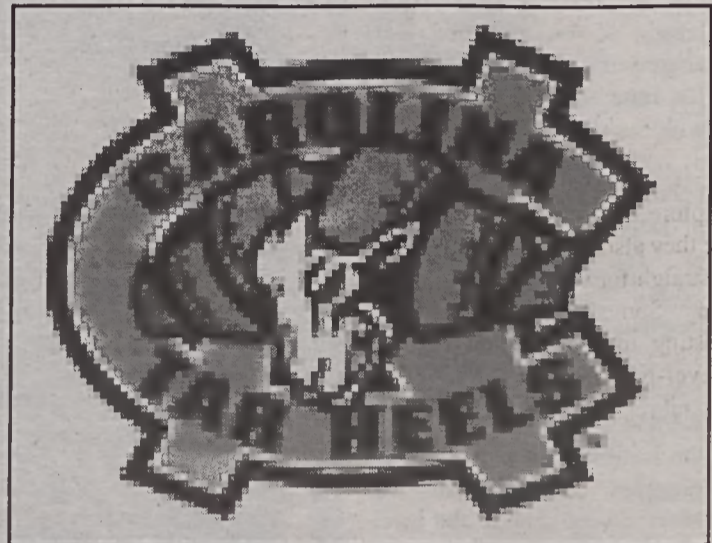
direct sentiments such as, "Since we don't accept slackers, this offer of admission relies upon your completing the year with flying colors," the scare tactic is fully employed by universities throughout the country.

It is certainly hard to say whether or not the indirect threats being imposed on students are effective, or just offensive, but one thing is certain: the pressure and continuous coercing from teachers, admissions officers, and parents is far from over. One senior described how the contingency statement and the seemingly never-ending push for seniors to work harder are somewhat insulting. He says, "I think if we got into a good school, they should know that we're not idiots. Honestly, I think we actually deserve a little latitude in our last few months of school. I'm not saying we ditch work entirely like Mark Edmonson, but some of us seriously need to relax a lit-

tle. If we can't during second semester senior year, when can we expect to?" Senior Mani Maheshwari gives her own thoughts, saying, "I think it's reasonable for a college to warn us like that because, personally, it keeps me focused. Besides, so many great classes are offered at this school; I wouldn't pass up the opportunity to take a few of them.

Especially since it is second semester when I can finally take almost any class I want."

Hopefully the members of the Class of 2004 will soon find a happy medium between work and play to finish off their last semester of high school with. Until then, there will be no shortage of scare tactics left to try and steer them in the right direction.



UNC's decision to reject an applicant after his grades dropped sparked controversy among S&Mers.

Amanda, Happy Valentine's Day! You're such a great friend.

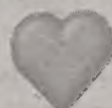
Evolution denounces love. --Drifty Drews

Becker/Buckwadder/Bucky/Becky (Slurp),

Garbage, swollen Germans, and Paglia will always be ours. You really are more awesome than Emma and Janeane. I admire your decision to be openly ethnic. You'll always be my favorite hispanic.

For the next 4 years or more we will be city-swapping and sharing like crazy. Your fabulous worn-an, Buller/Bryan (Sport)

Oh Leah! Sweet sweet Leah! As the sun rises in the East, so the breaking down of my love begins. As the sun sets in the West, I am overwhelmed with a burning desire, one that can't be concealed anymore. I long for one tender touch that will last a lifetime. Yours forever and ever, Craig Z.

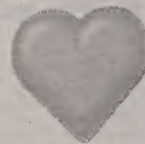


Dr. Wilson, be my Valentine!!! --Warner

4th West,
Ode to the Legion,
Strike one for the Flamethrower, and the Italian Stallion, eternally,
4W legionnaires
-the Asian

JD,
Just wanted to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. I love you schweetie. You are absolutely beautiful.
Love,

AT



Phillip Sollanday, Hey Schnoochums! Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm so lucky to have a guy like you! Happy V-day! Love, Cutie

Jackson He, I'm sorry you lost the bet. If you made it this week you would've won. Love, Morgan

My Angels,
I've had many good times with you three over the past two years. I hope you all enjoy putting up with me. Happy V-day.
Love,
Charlie

Stat G-block, Alpha levels, P-values, Errors, Type I and II Statistics is super Just like you! -Guess who?

Hubert Liu-Hoo, Happy Valentine's Day! You are such a great person and I love you lots! Oh yeah, 5 months and 1 day..hehe!

Daniel, I love you sweet-heart! Happy Valentine's Day. Three years. Love, Your Princess

O'Brian, I really don't think there are words to express exactly what you mean to me. You have taught me how to love "in spite of..." and I will never forget that! I never believed in love at 1st sight, but... I Love you, M. Renee

My Take On Affirmative Action

KRISTOPH KLEINER

June 23, 2003: The Supreme Court upheld Affirmative Action for United States colleges and universities. In Gratz v. Bollinger, the Court ruled 6-3 that the process of distributing 20 points to every minority applicant out of a possible 150 points violates the 14th Amendment's 'equal protection' clause. However, in Grutter v. Bollinger, the Court ruled 5-4 that schools are justified in ensuring that a "critical mass" of minority students are admitted, even when white students with higher grades and standardized test scores are denied admission or wait-listed.

Affirmative action seems to be a requirement to ensure diversity. Without Affirmative action, colleges and universities might become racially homogenous, but the current process of affirmative action is incorrect and thoughtless.

The traditional purpose of affirmative action was to pro-

vide minority students and students with low socioeconomic status with an advantage that improved their chances of being accepted to college. Why should minority students be rewarded for being a minority? Ethnicity is not an obstacle that minorities need to overcome, so why do we treat it as such? The real problem lies with underprivileged students; it is time to break away from ethnicity-based affirmative action and move toward addressing the problem that affirmative action has been indirectly tackling, admission for low-income and disadvantaged students.

Recently, there have been several attempts to change affirmative action methods while maintaining campus diversity. The most successful attempt was created by the University of Texas and known as the Ten Percent Plan. The Ten Percent Plan offers auto-

"Why should minority students be rewarded for being a minority?"