

Police admit fault in report handling

By Andrea Jones
Staff Writer

Durham city officials said Wednesday that they considered the case closed on a controversial Jan. 4 police report concerning a gang whose initiation ceremony could include raping a white woman.

Trouble arose for the department when it gave a press conference Jan. 4 notifying Durham residents of the possible threat. When police officials admitted Jan. 7 that their report might have been premature, the department faced accusations of mishandling the report's release.

At a meeting of the city council's Public Works Committee Monday, Interim Chief of Police Jackie McNeil said the report attempted to warn the community about two rapists that had occurred in the area. McNeil also apologized for the wording of the report.

The conflict concerning the report occurred when some citizens said the report heightened racial tensions. Concerned residents said including the race of victims implied the gang was black and created strained race relations.

Durham City Councilman Howard Clement, who chairs the Public Works Committee, said although he agreed with the report's release for safety purposes, he felt the situation could have been handled more appropriately.

"I just thought that, while the objective was laudable, (the report) hardly implemented it," Clement said. "It was so unnecessary to inject the race issue. And the police did inject the race issue and did not have tangible evidence to support it."

"Race relations in Durham are at a crossroads, not just with this matter, but across the board," Clement said,

referring to a recent merger of area schools and other developments.

Clement said he praised the candor McNeil exhibited during the meeting and said he thought problems created by the report had been alleviated.

"The police chief admitted that there were mistakes," Clement said. "This is the first time any department head has come to us admitting he made a mistake. I think the concerns raised... resolve the issue."

McNeil told council members that he could give them no further details to justify the report because the case was still under investigation, Clement said. The police spokesman in charge of the case was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

Virginia Englehard, vice chairwoman of the Public Works Committee, agreed that the department's original statement should not have included references to race, but said that the department's response had been satisfactory under the circumstances.

"It was clear to me from the beginning that a better job could have been done," Englehard said. "All that (the police) could have done was remove the reference to the race of the woman. They're in a position where they can't really reveal anything more about the case. I think it's been resolved as far as it can be."

Durham Mayor Harry Rodenhizer said he had heard nothing negative about the report and that he felt there was no need to explore the issue further. "The people I spoke to were happy that the ladies in the community had been warned," he said. "I think the issue has been resolved now. As far as we're concerned, the issue is dead."

Rebecca Moore contributed to this article.

State needs doctors to practice in rural areas

By Anna Burdeshaw
Staff Writer

Lower pay, fewer social activities, longer hours and shorter vacations are causing small-town doctors to become a disappearing breed in North Carolina.

Tom Irons, senior associate dean of the School of Medicine at East Carolina University, said that many rural physicians recently have retired and that a decreasing number of medical school graduates have shown interest in establishing a practice in a small community.

Irons said the quality of health care for rural residents was in danger. While rescue squads are effective in providing emergency care, Irons said many residents would forego preventative care if it became inconvenient.

Alfred Earwood, a practicing physician in Banner Elk, agreed. "A lot of people just let it go," Earwood said. "They won't go far away for care."

Bernie Patterson, assistant director of the N.C. Office of Rural Health, said the problem centered around a disproportionate number of medical students who were becoming specialists instead of primary-care givers.

"There are not enough primary-care physicians being produced," Patterson said. "Most of the medical students are becoming specialists. It is primary

caregivers that the rural communities need."

"There are not a lot of residents coming out of residency and going into primary care, and your bigger specialists are not going to small towns. You've got to have primary-care doctors," he said.

Patterson said many upcoming students were encouraged by the specific hours of specialized practice. "If you're sub-specialized, the incentives are such that you're likely to earn more money for less investment of time," he said.

Irons and Earwood both said financial considerations and the amount of work involved were major factors that discouraged physicians from establishing a medical practice in a rural community.

Earwood pointed out that many medical-school graduates had accumulated large debts in order to finance their education and that it was easier to repay loans by becoming a specialist in an urban community. He also said rural doctors did not receive adequate reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid payments.

Irons emphasized that small-town doctors not only were earning less than their urban counterparts but that their overall income has decreased since the early 1980s.

"Rural physicians in most areas are

making less in absolute dollars than they made ten years ago," Irons said.

Earwood also said lifestyle and family considerations discouraged doctors from practicing in small towns as shopping, social activities and high quality education rarely were convenient.

"Your spouse has to be happy, too," he said.

However, some doctors quickly pointed out that there were many advantages to practicing medicine in a small town.

William Jordan, a Windsor physician, said a rural community offered many rewards that were absent from an urban area.

"You know your patients a lot better," Jordan said. "It gets to be a family affair, and I think that's what practicing medicine is all about. I wouldn't trade it for any urban practice."

Patterson agreed and added that primary-care doctors, particularly in small towns, had more of an opportunity to serve people directly than did urban specialists.

"You're in the rural community, you're helping people, and you're needed," he said.

Patterson said the N.C. Office of Rural Health was working to eliminate the disadvantages associated with rural medical care by compensating young doctors with medical-school loans and

recruiting physicians from North Carolina and other states for communities in need.

Patterson said medical schools and universities also were encouraging students to practice in rural areas.

Irons said ECU was one of the universities making such an effort by experimenting with plans to help rural doctors gain more vacation time and link them more closely to the urban medical community.

One such experiment is the Partners program, through which ECU physicians fill in for small-town doctors for one to three weeks.

Irons also said the school was working to develop on-line linkage with its library to rural doctors and has recently installed televideo linkage in five sites across the state.

"Medical centers will have to more actively link themselves with practicing physicians," Irons said.

But despite such efforts, Irons said more incentives were needed to improve the quality of health care in rural communities.

"Solutions are going to have to be both creative and radical," Irons said. "We can't afford to wait the seven years it takes to produce a new crop (of doctors) interested in rural health. By the year 2000, if we haven't done something about it, we're in big trouble."

Lansing

of February. Officials hope to restructure the department's program to keep up with the fast-changing field of visual communications.

In addition to the lack of practical training in the RTVMP department, Lansing has run into financial problems. He estimates that his film will cost about \$7,000, and the department does not provide any funding for student productions.

Simpson and Lansing said such grants would benefit students greatly. "I think it would be wonderful if we had school funds for students to produce films," Simpson said.

Much of Lansing's work since he began the project in October has been directed toward covering the cost of the film. He has used various tactics including calling numerous UNC alumni and selling T-shirts door-to-door in dorms.

He credits student volunteers with sending out more than 130 letters soliciting donations from alumni. "There's a lot of people that are really pushing for me," he said. "I couldn't do it without the people helping me."

"If we can get \$2,000, we can get it in the can," he said, using film industry jargon to refer to the completion of the shooting. Editing the film will be the most expensive part of the venture.

Although Lansing has not come up with any large monetary pledges, many

"It has been an obsession with me. I was that little kid that would go in the movie theater in the summer and watch 'The Empire Strikes Back' over and over.... That was my world. I never quite got out of it."

SCOTT LANSING
SENIOR RTVMP MAJOR

people have volunteered products and services.

Richard Aldrich, a UNC alumnus now running Carolina Production Services in Charlotte, donated the use of production equipment for the three-day shoot Lansing has scheduled for Feb. 15-17.

Bob Newcomb, another UNC alumnus living in Charlotte, recently promised to give Lansing all of the raw film.

Hope Valley Country Club in Durham gave Lansing a reduced rate to shoot on

location there, and Carolina Dining Services has pledged all the food for the shoot.

Two actors from Playmakers Theatre, graduate students Brett Halna du Fretay and Connan Morrissey, will play the lead roles for the film free of charge. Lansing will conduct auditions for smaller parts in the film this afternoon in the Student Union.

The only paid crew member will be the cinematographer, or cameraman, who is a professional. An editor also will be hired to ensure that the complex editing process is done as professionally as possible, Lansing said.

Lansing is hoping his finished film will educate viewers. "The film is about the way human beings relate to each other and the masks that we carry — what happens when a person's mask falls," he said.

When this project is completed and Lansing gets his diploma in May, he is not planning to head to Hollywood like his friend John Ward.

"I'd like to stay involved in independent film, advertising and documentary work for a while to get production experience," he said.

He also hopes his future work will benefit society. "My final aspiration would be to make a film that truly affects people in a positive way."

Lansing said modern television and films were filled with violence, sex and blatant stereotypes, elements he would like to eradicate.

"We as a society have become numb to it," he said. "We don't need to see any more violence; we don't need to see any more pain. There's enough of it out there."

Machines

Police said that there were no firm suspects but that the investigation was continuing.

"We have redeployed our people, and it seems to have been effective," said Gold.

N.C. State University suffered an epidemic of vending machine thefts last semester during which 50 to 60 machines were broken into.

Since this semester began, thieves have broken into at least five machines. The damage on the NCSU machines is estimated to be about \$5,000, and about \$2,000 has been stolen from these machines, according to an article in the Jan. 11 edition of the Technician, the NCSU campus newspaper.

The bill validators cost approximately \$100 to fix.

To remedy the situation, Mars Electronics, the company that makes the machines used at UNC, has produced a new type of bill validator that is more difficult to break into. The new prototype will be placed on campus machines in the next couple of weeks.

Debit card machines soon will be replacing the bill validators in campus vending machines. Starting in February, students will be able to use their UNC One Cards for machines in Ehringhaus and Craig dormitories and in Gardner Hall, Beard Hall, Hamilton Hall and the Student Union.

Matlock

who said Ward had taught him a lot. Lansing, a senior radio, television and motion pictures major, has used last year's experience while producing his own film this year.

Ward now has moved to Los Angeles, where a talent agent is helping him find more acting roles and a literary agent is marketing his scripts.

Though Ward admits it is unusual to call himself an actor-screenwriter, he likens it to the title singer-songwriter and believes it will become a trend.

"It's a lot easier for you to play (a) role (you created yourself) because you remember what you were thinking when you wrote the script," he said.

Despite the fact that Ward's first prominent role was in "Matlock," work in feature films, not television, is his ultimate goal.

"You get a chance to say a little more," he explained. "I want to make stuff that can change people's lives."

But Ward's dreams of playing characters he creates himself will have to wait a while. For now, he is just one of thousands of aspiring actors looking to make it big in Hollywood, land of the glitz and glitter.

Ward spends three days per week in auditions, a "frustrating experience," he said. Hundreds of people, who all look the same, show up for each audition, he said. "(So) you have to figure out what makes you unique."

He also spends two days each week in creative meetings for his script.

"I'm very close to selling (a script)," Ward said, adding that he was "under contract" for another script idea. If the company representatives like the finished product, they will buy it, but in the meantime, Ward is not allowed to show the script to anyone else.

But whether or not Ward succeeds in Tinseltown, he believes the UNC diploma on his wall will guarantee his survival.

"I know all I gotta do is say the word, and I can let my lease run out and go home."

Language

cially here at Carolina, students need to be exposed to different cultures," she said. "That is one reason why I wanted to teach this course."

Francophone literature courses already are offered at other universities.

Elisabeth Mudimboe-Boyi, a Francophone literature specialist at Duke University, said Duke offered courses in Francophone literature, which have been well received by Duke students.

"We have one course at the undergraduate level and two at the graduate level," Mudimboe-Boyi said. "According to the attendance level and the course reviews, (the classes) have been received very well."

Some of the Francophone classes at Duke are taught in conjunction with the Asian and African languages classes.

The Francophone literature course at the University is subject to final approval by University administrators. If approved, it will be offered as French 77 in fall 1993.

Schwartz

ment teaching effectiveness is sufficient to deny promotion and/or tenure; the margin teaching excellence can offset some deficiency in a candidate's research portfolio," the letter states.

My personal opinion is that all of the faculty should have a strong vested interest to ensure that candidates up for tenure are held to a high standard of teaching performance," Schwartz said in an interview this week.

Schwartz said he sent the letter to Birdsall in mid-December. But Birdsall said Wednesday that he had not seen the letter or did not remember receiving it.

Paul Ferguson, the speech communication assistant professor who has appealed his tenure denial to the Board of Trustees, signed and said he fully supported the letter. "I agree 100 percent with the statement on teaching," he said. Ferguson, winner of a 1992 Undergraduate Teaching Award and the 1989 and 1992 Senior Class Favorite Teacher awards, said he was pleased with the effort to promote teaching.

"It is a united voice of teaching-award winners, and I'm proud to be part of that group," he said. "I was elated by the statement from Professors Schwartz and Filene, and I hope that this is just the first of many statements about the is-

sue."

Kevin Stewart, a geology assistant professor who signed the letter, was also denied tenure, even after receiving a 1992 Undergraduate Teaching Award. "(The letter) hits the nail on the head," he said. "A lot of people on this campus say that teaching and research are treated equally, but nobody believes that, not even the people who are saying it."

Ted Leinbaugh, a professor of English, said teaching often was neglected. "I feel that teaching should be an important part of the equation," he said.

Leinbaugh said that while good researchers were eligible for many endowed chairs, good teachers could only receive "folding chairs."

Although Schwartz's letter did not mention student involvement, many of the professors who signed the letter said they felt students could become more active and support those professors they felt were good teachers.

"I'm always happy to see students involved and supporting good teachers," said Karl Peterson, a mathematics professor. "There is a lot of information and a lot of misunderstanding. Having students involved and raising questions helps educate everybody about the tenure process."

Ferguson


said.

Cohen and John Rittelmeyer, another attorney from the Raleigh law firm of Graham and James, represented Ferguson at the hearing. Stephen Birdsall, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, William Balthrop, speech communication department chairman, and senior University counsel Susan Ehringhaus represented UNC at the hearing.

Ferguson declined to comment on any specific details of the two-hour long meeting. "I feel good that I got my case before the Board of Trustees, but until they render a decision, I cannot comment about the proceedings," he said.

University rules require officials to keep personnel issues confidential, and none of the parties involved wished to comment on the hearings.

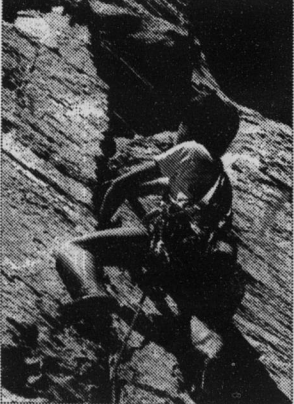
Ehringhaus refused to explain her role at the hearing.



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