

# NCCU Revives Nursing Exam Scores

By BENJAMIN GLOVER  
Staff Writer

A year ago, N.C. Central University's nursing program seemed about as likely to post the highest passing rates in the UNC-system as Florida State now does to lead the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball standings.

With a passing rate of only 66 percent in 1999, the Board of Governors threatened to shut down the program unless their scores improved.

Just a year later, N.C. Central boasted the highest score in the state - 94 percent passing rate - on the National Council Licensure Examination of Registered Nurses, referred to as the N.C. LEXRN.

Donna Benson, who served as inter-

im chancellor at N.C. Central in 1992 and worked with officials to raise test scores, said she employed several methods to help the school improve its passing rate, such as new software, external consultants for the test, small work groups of students and tutorial services.

Benson said much of the school's improvement resulted from improved classes and curriculums but added that the students played a vital role.

"The most impressive aspect of this improvement was the students' commitment," she said.

N.C. Central's nursing problems started in the 1980s, when fewer than 90 percent of the school's graduates passed the N.C. LEXRN the entire decade.

The school's score ranged from 46 to 88 percent in 1982-89.

In response to this trend at N.C. Central's nursing school, the BOG threatened to shut down programs with a passing rate of 75 percent or below for two consecutive years.

N.C. Central's passing rate ranged from 100 percent in 1992 to the decade low of 66 percent in 1999. After such an embarrassing year, N.C. Central undertook an aggressive and comprehensive transformation of their nursing program.

Gretchen Bataille, UNC-system senior vice president of academic affairs, added that N.C. Central made a "concerted effort at all levels - classes, labs, curriculum, etc." to try to improve students' scores. Bataille said the nursing school also sponsored a four-day study session before the exam.

But such methods have never been

needed in UNC-Chapel Hill's nursing program.

"UNC has never been in a situation even close to falling below the required scores and generally posts scores above 90 percent," said Linda Cronenwett, dean of the UNC-CH nursing program.

UNC-CH passing rate is 89 percent in 1999 and 93 percent in 2000, which was the second highest score in the state. UNC-CH has consistently earned one of the highest passing rates in the UNC-system on the N.C. LEXRN.

Cronenwett said the school's success was due to "good faculty, a good curriculum, and adequate resources from the state and federal governments."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Princeton to Fund \$16 Million Grants

By RACHEL NYDEN  
Staff Writer

A recent decision by Princeton University to replace student loans with grants has caused an upheaval in some areas of the higher education community, but UNC and Duke University officials say it will not affect them.

Princeton officials announced Jan. 27 that they will spend an additional \$16 million from the institution's endowment to fund grants for students in an effort to relieve them of the burden of loans.

This decision could give prospective students, especially middle-class students who aren't eligible for need-based financial aid, incentive to attend Princeton over other institutions.

But John Burness, senior vice president of public affairs at Duke, said most schools are not in a financial situation to compete with Princeton's decision.

"Princeton historically has funded virtually all its financial aid out of its endowment," he said.

"It has not had to dip into its operating budget."

Burness also said he is not worried about losing potential students to Princeton because many would be likely to pick Princeton over Duke.

He added that other universities might feel the need to adjust their own financial aid systems, especially other Ivy League schools, but that not many schools have the finances available to enact such a plan.

"It will create some pressure but probably, with the exception of Harvard and Yale within the Ivies and Stanford outside the Ivies, the endowments aren't going to be able to match what Princeton is doing," he said. "Each institution will have to determine how best to respond."

UNC Board of Trustees member

Richard Williams said the high cost of attending schools like Princeton gives them a need to adjust financial aid programs in different ways than less expensive schools such as UNC.

"With (UNC) tuition so low, affordability is not a big problem," Williams said.

He also said he does not think the decision will affect the University's ability to compete for top students.

"I think that we're always going to be in a position to compete with the very best," Williams said.

"I don't think it will give Princeton an advantage over us."

He added that even with the grants, students will still have to pay a large amount to attend Princeton.

"It doesn't mean they won't have to pay anything, just that the financial aid will be in the form of a grant," Williams said.

But Princeton Director of Financial Aid Don Betterton said the school's decision will spark conversation about financial aid on other campuses.

"We (made it easier to get financial aid) three years ago, and we had (in) some sense, given our competitive stance and where we stand, that there would be action on other campuses," he said.

Betterton said he thinks Princeton's plan will cause other universities to examine their own financial aid programs to remain fiscally desirable to students also applying to Princeton.

He added that schools also will have to consider changes that are compatible with their schools' missions.

"The key thing is institutions should make the proper response for their population."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Virus Originator 'OnTheFly' Confesses to Crime

The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands - Dutch police on Wednesday arrested the hacker known as "OnTheFly," a 20-year-old man who claims he wrote a computer virus that backed up e-mail systems worldwide by purporting to offer a photograph of tennis star Anna Kournikova.

Authorities charged him with damaging private property and computer programs, and sent the man home with his parents, saying the offense didn't war-

rant holding him.

A prosecutor will decide later whether to seek a jail sentence or a fine for the suspect.

"The offenses with which he has been charged aren't enough to hold him," said police spokesman Robert Rambonnet, adding that they carry up to a four-year sentence.

The man's name was withheld under Dutch privacy regulations, but he was identified as a resident of the small town of Sneek, 60 miles northeast of Amsterdam.

"It's up to the public prosecutors whether and for what he should be punished," said Peter Boomsma, the police spokesman in Sneek.

A district court was expected to hear the case in a few weeks.

Boomsma said the man was released on his own recognizance; it is ordinary practice in the Netherlands to let people go until trial.

The discovery of the apparent hacker in the Netherlands harked back to the 1980s when the country gained a reputation as a virtual transit point for hack-

ers trying to break into U.S. government computer systems.

In 1999, the national police set up a special unit of dozens of cyber detectives, but they were apparently clueless that a Dutchman was to blame for the most widespread Internet bug in nearly a year.

In a letter posted on the Internet on Tuesday admitting responsibility, the computer buff said he copied "the worm" from a program he found on the Internet, because "I don't know any programming languages."

## V-DAY

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During the discussion, members of the audience wondered about the purpose and reason for this tradition.

In "Warrior Marks," Walker explained that the ritual makes societies consider women pure. She said it is also

assumed that if a woman does not enjoy sexual intercourse, she will be less promiscuous. After the procedure, the girl is sewn up and continually reopened and closed to control her sexual activity.

"You control a woman as you would control any object," one African woman in the film said.

Most of the students exhibited shock

and seemed disturbed after the presentation. During the discussion, one student wondered what could be done to help women in these situations.

Benton said an alternative ceremony that does not include mutilation has been created, but many communities are reluctant to accept it.

She also said education is a positive tool toward stopping female circumci-

sion.

"Many women do not know what they are losing," she said.

In her movie, Walker gives women hope in fighting these practices.

"You can fight back even after you are injured."

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## VAGINA

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Monologues" outside and thought it was a pornographic show. He sat down and said to a woman next to him, "God, what are all these women doing here, this is like a chick flick, you know?" Enslar said.

"The man watched the show and he was grunting and moaning throughout and being a little depressed by it, but when it got to the Bosnia part and the woman talked about being raped with a rifle, he gasped audibly and by the end of the show he turned to this woman with tears streaming down his face," she said.

As Enslar performed "The Vagina Monologues" in cities all over the world,

she saw and heard firsthand the terrible consequences of violence toward women. It was clear that something major and dramatic needed to be done, she said.

Her piece inspired V-Day in 1998, when a group of professional women in New York joined with Enslar and founded the anti-violence movement.

"V-Day is a catalyst, a movement, a performance that simply demands that violence must end, proclaiming Valentine's Day as V-Day until the violence stops," Enslar said. "Then it will be known as Victory Day."

Enslar said the connection between the two days is ironic because it is actually in the name of romance that a lot of violence is committed toward women.

"We picked Valentine's Day because the theme was to take the romance out of Valentine's Day and put the vagina back in," Enslar said. "I am not anti-romance, but I am anti-romanticization of patriarchy and domination."

The global movement sponsors cultural events to raise awareness and money for existing women's organizations. The ultimate goal of V-Day is to present a message that entertains and at the same time creates a dramatic shift in consciousness.

Enslar stresses that the centerpiece of the V-Day movement will be productions across the country of "The Vagina Monologues." The play is expected to earn between \$3 and \$5 million for women's organizations, in addition to

the more than \$3 million it has already raised.

Enslar, who is currently writing a feature film for Miramax with Glenn Close directing, describes the incredible success of "The Vagina Monologues" as somewhat of a mystery.

"I sometimes feel like I'm just in the wake of a great vagina miracle. The monologues are based on real women's stories, so when women hear them they hear their own stories back at them."

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed at 8 p.m. Feb. 15-17 at the Playmakers Theatre. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for the community.

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## GPSF

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in becoming a mentor.

"I had a lot of people help me to get where I am today," she said. "I want to give back and help others who have similar interests as me."

But Nora Harris, a junior history major, was wary of what the mentor project offered. She expressed concern that the e-mail mentorship would not be as effective as face-to-face counseling sessions. "E-mail is impersonal," she said. "It doesn't promote the kind of discussion that would be necessary for giving advice about important issues."

Woody said he hopes the initial contact obtained through e-mail will lead to more productive meetings between the undergraduates and their mentors.

"E-mail is just a way to get (the mentorship process) started," he said. "Basic questions that undergraduates have about graduate school can be easily answered by e-mail."

To obtain more information about the mentorship project, send an e-mail to [gradmentor@tarheelblue.com](mailto:gradmentor@tarheelblue.com).

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