

Mike O'Neal

## University daunts grad students daily

In mid May, tucked away in a basement room of Peabody Hall, 27 graduate students and an equal complement of general and service-oriented University administrators sat down to an all day discussion.

The peaceful confrontation of sorts, initiated in part by the efforts of the Campus Ministry, was auspiciously billed as an exploration of the needs, concerns and problems of graduate students.

The singular complaint that emerged from the conference was one that made most administrators understandably uncomfortable - intimidation. Outright, unmitigated and uncalled for abuse of power by the University academic community came under intense fire from the graduates.

Although graduate students were seated ironically on one side of the large conference room and administrators on the other, the unity of the graduate students was quite remarkable. After all, most of the graduate students present had never actually met one another before. The political representatives, such as myself, were a distinct minority compared to the academic representatives of the various departments.

While some of the graduate academic deans struggled defensively to explain the various judicial and appellate academic channels available, one graduate student after another condemned the process as worthless in preventing retribution by professors against individual students.

Throughout the discussion I remained an observer, quietly admiring my compatriots for their courage in daring to make the assembled establishment uncomfortable. Unfortunately, most of the graduate students had never been involved in the reverse side of the coin - namely

student government politics. Had they been, only one more step was then needed to draw the natural analogy that the same abuse of power is a daily reality there too.

The artificiality of the graduate and undergraduate distinctions became evident. The problems we were discussing were not confined by class barriers but in reality permeated the entire University structure.

While one administrator cynically dismissed the presence of intimidation as a reality that extends far beyond the borders of this campus, Associate Dean

of Student Life Fred Schroeder offered the day's most appropriate comment.

"I can only urge you when you run into a wall not to beat yourselves up in a bloody pulp," Schroeder said. Instead he urged the graduates to try alternate methods or positions from which to work. Whereupon one minister spiritually added, "Don't let them pick you off one at a time."

Having been allowed to vent their frustrations, the students turned back to more mundane concerns revolving around the level of services to graduate students and the availability of

information on those aids.

Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton, somewhat aloof from the day's proceedings, jumped into the discussion and promised commitment plus action from himself and his department. A similar commitment, he added, would have to be forthcoming from the graduates as well.

Several graduate students hurriedly whispered, "Who's he?" Upon learning it was Boulton, most seemed favorably impressed.

In the meantime, the complaints of intimidation seem to have taken a back

burner. However, a future meeting of the graduate academic deans and the graduate students is promised. Initial response from the Graduate Department Office has been encouraging.

In the months ahead, maybe the academic deans can provide a valuable example to their brethren in the general and service administration. We can only hope the wait isn't a long one.

Mike O'Neal is a graduate student in journalism and was recently appointed Student Body treasurer.

Michael Fawcett

## (a) Terry (b) Ted (a) is (b) is not?

We journalists have a special responsibility to the many foreigners visiting our country to let them know the meaning of certain strange political events. These events seem obvious, and make perfect sense, if they're a seasoned American observer; but the Japanese or Briton is thoroughly lost unless we give him a hand. So, as a public service, here is a sensible explanation of two startling occurrences of last week.

THE EVENT: Duke University President Terry Sanford announces for President of the United States. This raises key questions in the puzzled foreigner's mind: Why does Sanford think he can be elected when (a) the last time he served in a public office was over 10 years ago; and (b) he was beaten by Alabama Governor George Wallace in the '72 N.C. primary and would surely have to face Wallace again next year? Is Sanford a sado-masochist?

THE EXPLANATION: Sanford is relying on two phenomena to get himself either the Presidential or Vice-Presidential nomination of the Democrats. The first is the Nixon Amnesia Syndrome (Goldwater Corollary), (NAS-GC), which is stated as follows: "If a politico stays out of the public eye long enough, people forget he is a politico and start thinking he's a

statesman." Richard Nixon himself was elected President eight years after he had failed by making use of this principle. Barry Goldwater, on the other hand, is a respected elder statesman despite having engineered the worst GOP defeat (in 1964) since 1936. Forgetting the fact that both of these men were Republicans, Terry is engaged in Wishful Thinking Politics (WTP). A similar motive explains Sanford's other axiom, the Agnew-Eagleton Running Mate Principle (AERMP). Since nobody knew these men outside their home states when they were nominated for Vice-President, and few know Sanford outside North Carolina now, Terry thinks it's good for him, too. But Agnew and Eagleton weren't proven losers in their home states, either! And this is not despite their unfortunate fates after nomination (and Agnew's election).

THE EVENT: Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts told the whole country - and world - back in September that he is not running for President. Yet many foreigners have been startled to see a Newsweek magazine with Kennedy's picture and the caption, "Ready for Teddy?" How can EMK be running, when he told us he was not running?

THE EXPLANATION: Kennedy wants to start a so-called "draft" movement. (No relation to the military - this is the politico's draft.) Then nobody will say he ruthlessly sought the nomination, as they said of his late brother Robert. Just one problem, though. The last draft movement that worked at a convention was in 1940 (Wendell Willkie). It didn't work in November. Some say Dwight Eisenhower was drafted, but he was a special case. Kennedy is counting on the Camelot Return Mechanism (CRM) to gain victory - the nostalgia for 1961-63 will be so great among Democrats that they will literally beg Teddy to come and bring back the good old days. Otherwise, he can sit around just as he is doing now. He may be sitting around quite a while.

Jerry Ford is a centrist, just as John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson were. The bankruptcy of the Old Liberalism (OL) combined with the familiar Status Quo-Apathy Connection (incumbents usually win because apathy and desire for the s.q. are enough to re-elect them) should keep the White House in GOP hands until 1980, when it'll all be up for grabs again.

Michael Fawcett is a senior journalism major from Charlotte.

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