

Lower court ruling could set precedent

By JIM HUMMEL
Staff Writer

A suit challenging the UNC Board of Governors' authority to license degree programs offered by an out-of-state school could influence similar disputes in the future, officials involved in the case said this week.

The BOG has filed an appeal to the state Supreme Court, seeking to overturn a lower court ruling that the board has no authority to license degree programs offered in North Carolina by Florida-based Nova University.

"Perhaps the main problem with the decision is that anybody can come in and set up shop and grant degrees from out-of-state," said Senior Deputy Attorney General Andrew Vanore Jr., "and the Board of Governors would not have the power to do anything about it."

Nova currently offers a degree program in Lincolnton involving 16 people, but awards the degrees at its main campus in Ft. Lauderdale. The North Carolina Court of Appeals last month ruled that a state law which requires an institution to obtain a license from the board before conferring a degree in the state did not apply to Nova.

"We are posing no threat to the state of North Carolina," Nova Vice President Stephen Goldstein said in a telephone interview last week. "We are dealing here mainly with different realities, the least of which is academic."

"There are an increasing number of states enacting legislation to control out-of-state institutions. We have never conferred a degree in North Carolina."

Nova applied to the board in 1976 for a license to offer doctoral and master's degrees which would be taught in North Carolina and awarded in Florida.

An independent committee was set up to study the matter and recommended the BOG not allow Nova to be licensed in the state. The board followed the recommendation and denied Nova's request, at which time the school filed a suit challenging the decision.

"They argue the statute doesn't apply to them because they physically don't give the degree in North Carolina," said Assistant Attorney General Marvin Schiller. "The question is how you interpret the statute."

Nova began offering the doctoral programs in 1972 and currently operates in 22 states including North Carolina. Of the 6,000 students enrolled in Nova courses, 65 percent attend the Ft. Lauderdale campus.

"The basic matter is availability of programs in a given state," Goldstein said. "We just didn't come in and say, 'We're going to set up here whether you like it or not.'"

"Our programs began as an expression of a desire from people within the state who had a substantial interest in a certain area."

University officials contend if the ruling is upheld, it might jeopardize the quality of education offered throughout the state.

"It would really allow an institution which might not reasonably be capable of providing a sound education to confer degrees," Vanore said.

"However, that is on a broader level. That doesn't mean Nova itself is deficient. It's the precedent that's being set."

Goldstein said Nova has a "cluster coordinator" in each area who oversees the day-to-day operation of the course. The university hires professors or experts in a given field to teach the course itself.

"We're not dealing here with graduate students as you might find at a school like UNC-Chapel Hill," Goldstein said. All courses are taught by full professors.

"The principal spirit of the law is to protect the potential student. What has happened is that the law has been used as a way to inhibit new alternative ways to education."

Attorneys involved in the case have said it is the only one of its type and the final outcome could influence future cases.

"We would like to see the matter resolved in a way that Nova University is seen as a viable educational institution," Goldstein said. "We don't want a Pyrrhic victory."

"People speak about educational freedom, but these very institutions are closed to any change. If you took it to its logical conclusion the state of North Carolina should not recruit out-of-state students, even if they do pay a higher tuition."

Nova also has a suit filed against the board which claims that allowing the BOG to license Nova courses restricts the school's freedom of speech and other constitutional rights.

"Education boils down to students and faculty members interacting with each other," Goldstein said. "Laws should facilitate that relationship, not inhibit it."



Tim Greene and pet tiger Tigger engage in a playful wrestling match. Chapel Hill family has two pet leopards in addition to Tigger.

Pet tiger

Local man likes BIG cats

By ANN PETERS
Staff Writer

Franklin Street has been the scene of many unusual and rather exotic events. But have you recently seen a tiger on a leash walking obediently alongside his master?

Well, you just might have. "Most people are just fascinated," Kay Green said. She and her husband, Tim Green, owner of Greene Electric, have hand-raised Tigger, a three month old tiger cub, and Domino, a male leopard, in their Chapel Hill home. They also own a female leopard named Lady. The Greens purchased Tigger from Dr. Michael Bleyman, a zoologist from Duke University who lives in Pittsboro.

"They just don't sell (these animals) to anybody," Greene said. "It takes a certain type of person. Basically, I don't like cats. But big cats are a different story. 'Everybody can't have them. I'm not sure I'll be able to handle it,'" Greene said as Tigger gnawed playfully at his shoe.

The feline also began to chew on a visiting photographer's knee while posing for pictures.

"When we got Tigger, he was two weeks old," Kay Greene said. "We kept him in a box near our bed and fed him with a bottle. Out kids are crazy about him as long as he isn't biting."

"Tigger loves to chew, bite and jump. Usually I keep him in the pen if he gets too rough," she said.

The tiger now weighs in at 40 pounds and eats two whole chicken per day. "When he was three weeks old he already had started to eat cut-up chicken, bones and all," Tim Greens said.

He estimated that by the time the cub is a year old he will weigh about 200 pounds. Full-grown, Tigger should weigh between 600 and 800 pounds and eat 15 to 20 pounds of food a day.

Tigger's food costs will run nearly \$1,000 a year and \$2,000 to \$4,000 for cages.

"Tim's a nut over animals, particularly something that no one else will have," Kay Greene said.

Tigger is the second of the big cats to roam the Greene's home. Domino had been living in the house until early May. Both leopards now live on a sister's farm. Greene has noticed a big difference between the raising of a tiger and a leopard.

"Tigers make better pets, since leopards are tree dwellers," he said. "A full-grown leopard can jump higher than a tiger and almost hang in mid-air." Tigers, Greene said, are better known for their ability to run very fast for shorter distances.

Having raised both Tigger and Domino, Greene has a special relationship with the cats. When they start playing rough with him, he plays rough with them. Lady is a little more reluctant since she was 14 months old when Greene bought her.

Greene's unique relationship with these unusual household pets is similar to the bond between a dog or cat owner and his or her pet. He speaks of the animals with tenderness and a special pride in each of them. Greene mentioned that Tigger is likely to double his size every month.

"You can watch his growth," he said affectionately. "When he gets bigger, I'll have to build a larger cage."

Night college students strive for group

By STEPHANIE BIRCHER
Staff Writer

In an effort to increase student input into UNC Evening College programs, some 700 evening college students are working to form the Evening College Student Association.

The new organization should be recognized officially by the University by September 15, Bob Saunders said.

He said the Evening College students' need to organize came about when the Faculty Council approved Feb. 15 a reduction of allowed credit hours from twelve to eight per semester for evening students without asking for student and faculty input.

The council also voted to require students with no previous college work to remain in the Evening College at least three semesters before they could transfer. Many students in the program also objected to that rule.

The changes were the result of a two-year study of the college by the University Planning Council.

More than 200 Evening College students submitted a petition to Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III in April criticizing the changes.

"The solution must be an organized body of student representatives," Saunders said. The representatives would have a voice in course load policies and class offerings.

"Our primary function will be just as the day school Student Government," said Charles Poplin, an organizer of the ECSA. "We'll be like an extension."

The ECSA will serve as an information center for Evening College students, he added, and may petition to have the February 15 legislation voided.

"We're in the process now of increasing enrollment and getting funds from the University so that we can become a recognized association," Poplin said.

"In a sense we're recognized now—we have a mailing address. But we have to go through a membership drive. Around 1,200 (evening students) need to be contacted. Then we'll go to (the Division of) Student Affairs to be approved."

According to 1979 enrollment figures, 1,273 students attended UNC Evening College last fall.

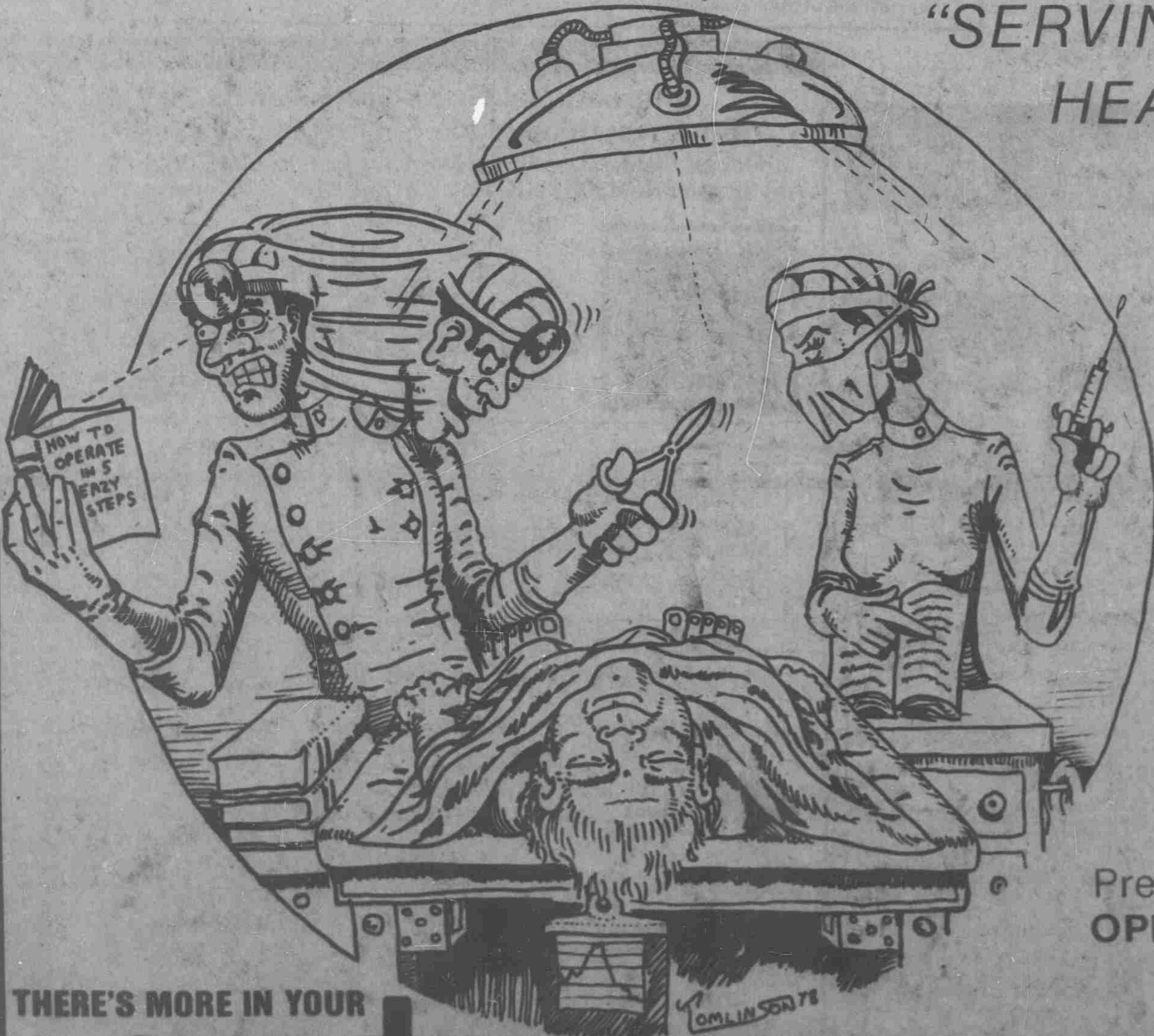
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