

Students bound by honor despite safety in numbers

By TRACY HILL
Staff Writer

During the quiz, Lynda heard paper rattle. She then saw a girl look at something crumpled in her hand and figured her classmate was cheating.

Lynda, an assumed name, first rejected what she saw. Then she got angry and wanted to report the incident. "I was really, really mad," she said. "But I kept it in until after class. That's when I started getting doubts. . . I had a battle going on."

The Honor Code, written in *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*, prohibits academic lying, cheating, plagiarism and stealing. But because UNC classes are ordinarily very large, the temptation and ease of cheating is great for some students.

"I hate to see a person cheat because it really puts a bind on the person who sees it," said Lynda. "You do not realize how heavy the Honor Code is until you're in that situation."

Student Attorney General Mary Evans said she receives about 40 to 50 reports of alleged Honor Code violations in a typical month. And although the processes of the student judiciary are designed to allay the fears of both witness and defendant, the gravity of the situation still places strains on those involved.

"When . . . (students reporting an alleged offense) come to me . . . they are either furious or in tears," said Evans.

Accused students are normally very worried also. "I think students worry unnecessarily . . . (that) they will be taken straight to court," she said.

The process of taking a case to the Honor Court is methodical and time-consuming. The Student Attorney General must first determine if a reported offense should be heard by the Honor Court. If it falls within court jurisdiction, an investigation is made to see if there is sufficient evidence for a case. The defendant of the official charge is then notified if a case is determined.

The rights of the defendant are explained in detail at a conference. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, Evans said.

The Honor Court handles alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct. A new court chair, Tory Johnston, and three vice-chairs — Jeff Michael, Fred Evans and Felicia Washington — were elected Feb. 17.

The Student Supreme Court is a separate body that deals with Student Constitution violations. Assistant Attorney General Walker Poole said this includes election

rules, Student Congress voting procedures and student government executive branch powers.

Evans' staff spends a week to 10 days building a case before it goes to the Honor Court. All evidence is open to the defendant. "There's no such thing as a surprise witness . . . or secret evidence," she said.

If the Court finds the defendant innocent, the file is destroyed; everything is shredded. For those found guilty, a separate hearing is held to determine appropriate punishment. "For an academic offense," said Evans, "suspension is the norm. There are very few exceptions."

Every defendant has the right to appeal a case to the University Hearings Court.

The Instrument calls academic work "a joint enterprise involving both faculty and students. . . Both must share responsibility for ensuring its integrity."

Associate Professor of economics Thomas J. Kniesner said that at a university the size of UNC, there should be a balance of responsibility between students and faculty in upholding the Honor Code.

But large class sizes place an extra burden on the integrity of the system, he said. Kniesner's Economics 10 class has 330 students.

"Time is a problem in huge classes," he said. Some departments don't have enough staff to photocopy exams on their own. Kniesner said the tests were then sent out for duplication, increasing the risk of theft.

Kniesner takes precautions by spacing students' seating during exams, passing out multiple exam forms and having four graduate students proctor the exam with him.

Evans said UNC students have many privileges such as take-home exams. "I feel that we're very lucky to be given the amount of freedom we have right now," she said. "It's not that most measures professors take against cheating aren't bothersome."

"Some of the other things I feel fly in the face of what the honor system should be," Evans said. "Ideally, students wouldn't have to check books out of the library. But you have to be realistic."

"Some people would be surprised, in some ways, at the integrity of students," Evans said. "It would be hard to do the job that I do if I didn't have faith in other people."

"Recognizing human nature . . . and taking into account the physical realities of the classroom, you must just cross your fingers and put people on their honor."

Programs persuade potential students to choose UNC first

By JEAN LUTES
Staff Writer

Did you feel like a number when you applied at Carolina? Thanks to the Carolina Contact and Carolina Fair programs, more students are getting personal attention, rather than the "number treatment," after being accepted by the University.

The Carolina Contact and Carolina Fair programs were established in 1984 by the Admissions Office to encourage "top-flight" high school seniors who had already been accepted at UNC, said Anthony Strickland, assistant director of undergraduate admissions.

In the Carolina Contact program, UNC students write individual letters to high school seniors inviting them to visit the campus and offering to serve as personal tour guides.

Carolina Fairs are held in the spring, allowing prospective students to visit the campus, meet other high school seniors and Carolina students, and talk to representatives of various campus organizations.

Katharine Kelley, who started the programs, said that in the past UNC had done little to personalize admissions. "It's something we've been needing to do for a long time," she said.

"The philosophy behind the program comes through the word 'contact,'" she said. "To say to people that we care if you come here. UNC is not just a big, impersonal university."

"Everybody feels like a number when they come to Carolina," said junior Michele Killough, who has worked in both programs since last year. "It's not a recruiting program, but just lets them (prospective students) know what Carolina is really like."

Admissions Representative Sylvia Perry said the Contact program is designed to let students see firsthand what the University is about. "It's just what the name implies, a personal contact to give personal impressions," she said.

On the average, Strickland said, about half the accepted students enroll at the University. In 1984, when the program was tested on in-state high school seniors, 59.6 percent of students contacted enrolled, while 48.6 percent of students not contacted enrolled.

The program was expanded to include out-of-state applicants in 1985. In North Carolina, 66 percent of those contacted enrolled, and from out of state, 52 percent of those contacted

enrolled. About 600 UNC students are involved in one or both of the programs, Strickland said. The North Carolina Fellows program, the freshman and sophomore honorary society Phi Eta Sigma, the Order of the Bell Tower, and students recommended by their departments are participating in the programs.

"We have accomplished a lot with about one-tenth the money other schools spend," Strickland said.

After the heavy recruitment policies adopted by many institutions in the late 1960s and early 1970s, he said "it became apparent that to stay where we were in the late 70s we had to do something."

He cited several studies done in the

late 1970s on accepted students who didn't enroll at Carolina. The studies found four main reasons why students chose not to come to UNC.

Two of the reasons were lack of an engineering school and lack of non-need-based financial aid, which Strickland said the Admissions Office could do little to change.

The other two reasons were lack of personal contact during the admitting period, and lack of recognition of applicants as good students. "It was these two issues we felt we could address," he said.

"We emphasize the personality of the place and the individuality of our students," he said. "That's what we want to show off. We never knock another school."

Faculty

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hiring black faculty and women.

The report said the chairman of the faculty should be allowed to appoint two "Coordinators of Mentoring" to promote interaction between senior and junior faculty members. There would be one coordinator for academic affairs and one for health affairs.

"The Committee on Black Faculty believes that mentoring will best be a contribution if it is informal and complements the official relationship between a faculty member and a school or department," the report said.

A center for the study of Africa and Afro-American studies was also recommended in the report. Library holdings

Renwick

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and administration would make a statement like that."

Renwick said if the faculty really meant that students should make their own decisions, then academic requirements should be their decision also.

"What the hell's the difference between 'mandatory' and 'requirements'?" he said.

Renwick said a committee had been formed to decide about mandatory tutorial sessions on campus, but he was not on the committee because he supported mandatory tutorials. Dr. Mark Appelbaum, of the psychology department, is chairman of that committee, Renwick said, and he (Appelbaum) had stood up at the faculty meeting and said: "No, we don't need a mandatory tutorial program. . . I told them he had no business on the

committee."

What the University needs, Renwick said, is a strong black alumni to start asking these people, both black faculty and administrators, what they are doing for black students.

"We need to re-drill some new wells," Renwick said. Discipline and good study habits show students want to go to class and perform well academically.

Another program of the Office of Student Counseling is the 3.0 recognition ceremony, an initiation for those minority students who have a 3.0 overall GPA or make a 3.0 one semester. The ceremony will be held April 18.

The minority advisors who do peer counseling with incoming freshmen will also be honored at the ceremony, to be held April 18. Renwick said the 13-year-old program is successful.

"We've never had a minority advisor not graduate," he said, adding that his lawyer, doctor, and ophthalmologist are his former students.

"I don't care how far I have to travel," Renwick said. "I want my students."

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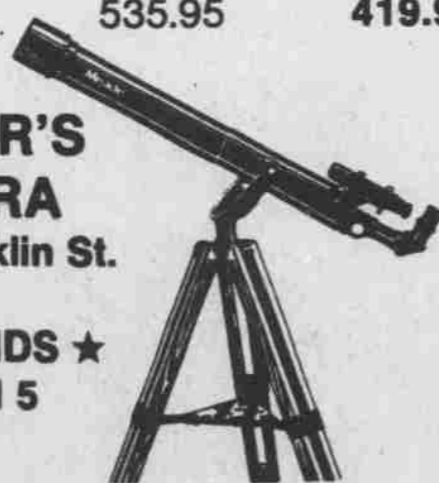
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