

Woman's dedication, discipline helps her maintain success as cyclist, student

By KATHY PETERS
Staff Writer

Bunki Bankaitis-Davis used to be a ballgirl for her brothers' tennis games. But now she is a member of the National Women's Cycling Team. Bankaitis-Davis, who sports a short haircut and make-up bare face, rides up to 5 hours daily.

Ever since the national men's coach spotted her riding in a men's race last summer, Bankaitis-Davis has been hit with a headwind of change. "I went from nowhere all the way to the top," she said. "This happened so fast."

As a result of the coach's tip, recruiters placed Bankaitis-Davis on the National Women's Team, a group of four women cyclists whose training is sponsored by Texan Metros Centurion company. She will start full training this summer, when she and her husband, a member of the UNC cycling team, move to Colorado Springs. There, coaches will instruct her at the Olympic training center.

Being chosen for the national team was a surprise for Bankaitis-Davis. A few years ago, she was a runner. Then, when her ankles weakened, she was "coerced" into cycling by her husband. She soon ditched her running shoes for riding gear, began competing and became her own coach.

Now she is trying to juggle the two roles of student and cyclist.

Hours and hours of motorpacing (riding alongside a car), sprinting and distance riding demand dedication. And according to Kevin Calkins, a UNC cycling team member, Bankaitis-Davis definitely has persistence.

"The reason Bunki is good is that she's just so dedicated," Calkins said. "She's got a lot more discipline than a lot of us who ride."

But until she graduates with a Ph.D. in organic chemistry in May, Bankaitis-Davis' emphasis is on education. "This is my last year," she said. "I don't want to prolong it. Training wastes a lot of study time."

Her academic adviser, Mike Crimmins, said Bankaitis-Davis was determined to handle studying and cycling. "She's really a very organized person," he said.

The publicity that accompanies paid athletes sometimes makes Bankaitis-Davis question her decision to race.

"God, I've had a lot of those times ... (questioning the decision)," Bankaitis-Davis said, as she rolled her eyes. "If it were up to me, I would race right here (in Chapel Hill) in men's races. Especially lately, I've had a lot of responsibilities."

Bankaitis-Davis recognizes, though, that doing promotions comes with the "luxury" of being sponsored. "You have to balance your sanity and make others happy," she said. "You have to learn to say no, but you have to learn when

you can say no."

As an undergraduate at Cleveland State, Bankaitis-Davis didn't say "no" to sports; she played tennis and volleyball.

But during her childhood in Cleve-



Bunki Bankaitis-Davis will begin full training this summer in Colorado. DTH/Dan Carlson

Campus Personality

land, Ohio, Bankaitis-Davis' desire for athletics was squelched. "I always wanted to be (an athlete), but never could be," said the eldest daughter of a family with five boys. "The attitude was that women shouldn't play sports."

For Bankaitis-Davis, biking is a serious sport. "The thing that gets me so mad is that people think you hop on, ride a bike around, and that's it," she said. "Biking is very much a team sport. You have to be able to race in a pack. A mistake lands you on the pavement."

But Bankaitis-Davis doesn't want to be known as a cyclist or even a chemist. She laughed, fidgeted with her black wristband and said that she wanted to be "someone who's giving." She added that she would like to give the opportunities that she has had to others.

"I'd like to hit people in junior high, especially women," she said. "Most women don't know what they can do, physically and mentally. Sometimes, it just takes someone to tell somebody. Never, ever in my life did I dream that I would be doing this, but it's here now. And I like it."

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Speaker questions transplant ethics

By MARIA HAREN
Staff Writer

With modern science's ability to transplant organs, serious ethical questions arise which must be given careful thought, said a Carolina Symposium 1986 speaker Tuesday night in Hanes Art Center.

Dr. James F. Childress, a Kyle professor of religious studies and a University of Virginia professor of medical education, spoke to an audience of about 60 students on "Ethics and Biomedical Technology: The Case of Organ Transplantation."

The actual donor may or may not be the person who had signed a donor card, Childress said, because donor cards are not considered unless the family agrees to the donation.

"The term donor is applied to those who make the decision to donate and the source of the donation," Childress said. "The living can sue more easily than the dead."

According to law, a family has the right to refuse the donation in court, even if the signer had an opposite wish, he said.

Childress said people feared that doctors may remove organs before actual death, or may hasten death if an organ was needed badly enough.

Lack of education concerning death leads to public mistrust, he said, and the public should be aware that "brain death" and "death" are

the same things.

To get more donors, the medical profession should ask the families of dying or brain-dead persons if they have considered organ donation, Childress said.

Formation of a waiting list and selection of patients for organ transplants poses a complicated problem, Childress said. "It's important that the public sees that the selection and distribution of organs is fair."

The need for the organ, the probability of success and the waiting list priorities are the primary criteria for organ reception, he said.

"Urgency is the usual choice," he said, "but it can be used as a camouflage by doctors to get organs for their patients."

Age as a criteria for donor reception should only be a determinant when the chances for survival after surgery is in doubt, he said, or if other diseases may interfere.

A person who has received a previous organ and rejected it should be questioned as a possible receiver before another transplant is given, he said.

"When one has had a transplant," Childress said, "it decreases the chance of success for another transplant."

Absence of family or social support should not determine who receives an organ donation, he said, as should the ability to pay for the transplant.



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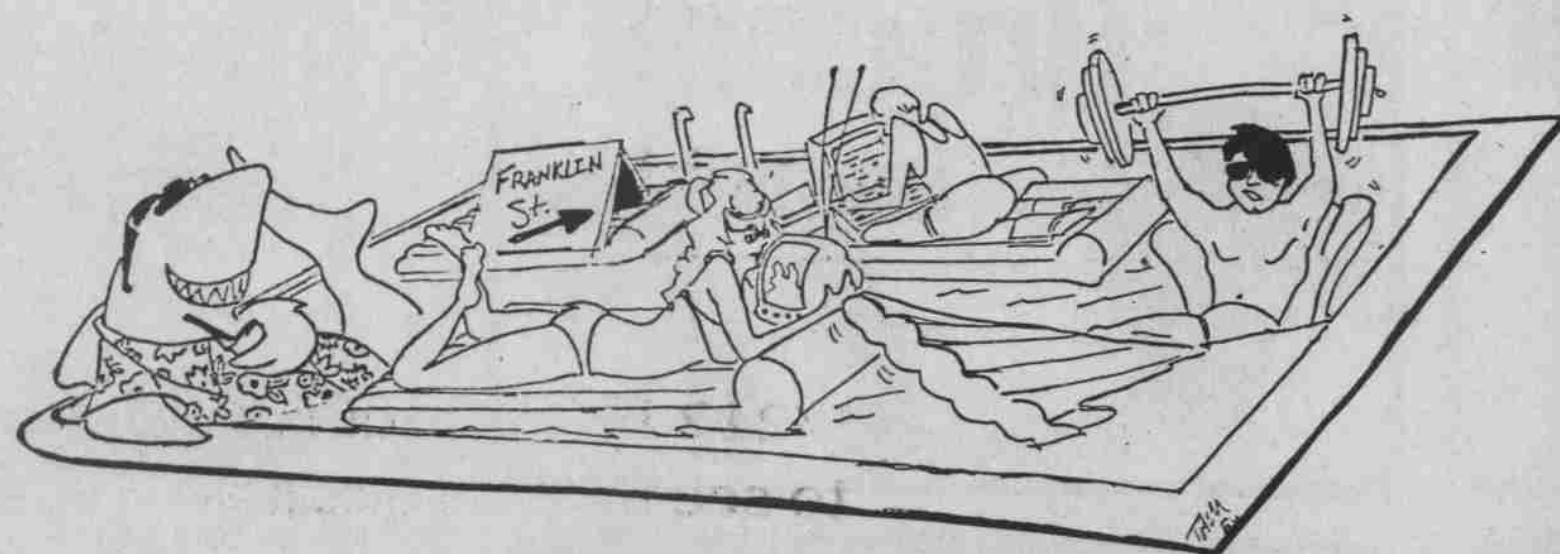
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