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44 swimmers ask for coach's resignation

By SCOTT FOWLER
Sports Editor

Forty-four men and women swimmers have signed a petition requesting the resignation of head coach Frank Comfort, The Daily Tar Heel has learned.

The petition, which was examined by the DTH, states that swimmers have "a thorough lack of confidence" and a "sense that there will be no improvement without a coaching change." Twelve swimmers did not sign the petition, and two names had been scratched out. Several of the swimmers not signing the petition, including women's co-captain Susan O'Brien, said they did not perceive any problems with Comfort's coaching.

Three senior swimmers — co-captain Randy Hyre, Dirk Marshall and Dan Hamilton — expressed the 44 team members' grievances to UNC athletic director John Swofford earlier this week, Marshall said. "When we went to the athletic department, we felt we were stonewalled," he said.

"He didn't set up any more meetings with us, or say he would do anything real specific," Hyre said.

Swofford, contacted Wednesday in Greensboro, said he had planned a meeting Monday with Comfort, who recently completed his ninth year coaching at UNC. Comfort is out of town at an NCAA swimming convention in Ponte Vedra, Fla. He was reached after repeated attempts at 12:40 a.m. today, but did not wish to comment on the situation.

"I consider (the situation) very important for two reasons," Swofford said. "One, it concerns one of our teams and the individual student-athletes on that team, and two, it concerns the career and livelihood of one of our coaches. Coach Comfort has done an excellent job for a number of years."

Comfort coached the men's team to a second-place ACC finish this season, behind Clemson, and the women's team to its sixth straight conference championship. He has been conference women's Coach of the Year three times — in 1982, 1984 and 1985.

However, the petitioners said, the records are misleading. "About 10 percent of the swimmers have improved their times in maybe one of three events, and that's terrible," Hyre said.

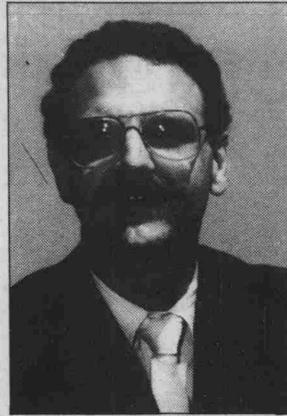
"I personally feel like I have gone backwards," said one of the petitioners. Like seven other underclassmen swimmers who signed the petition and were interviewed, he asked not to be identified for fear of losing his scholarship. "The raw talent on this team is incredible, and it literally goes to waste. There is no leadership."

Hyre agreed. "Every year we have been here no one has really been happy with the swim team," Hyre said. "Everybody kind of knows Frank is not a good coach, but they lived with it."

Until this year. Several of the freshmen on the team approached Hyre and Marshall earlier this month, Hyre said. "They wanted to see if we could do anything, since we didn't have anything to lose," according to Hyre, who along with Marshall and Hamilton had used up all their eligibility.

"Too many people were angry, and not doing anything about it," according to one diver, who wished to remain anonymous. "This was a very serious matter, and we wanted to be taken seriously."

Marshall and Hyre then drew up a petition and called a team meeting,



Frank Comfort

Hyre said. "We told them if they would like to go about doing this, we had a petition written up," he said. Thirty-five of the 37 swimmers at the meeting signed then, according to Hyre, and nine more signed later.

O'Brien, a sophomore, did not sign the petition. "Personally, Frank has not done anything to me to hurt my swimming," she said. "He's bent over backwards for me. He does for everyone."

Another swimmer, who wished to remain anonymous, did not sign the petition, but said he did feel pressure

See SWIMMING page 8A

Board will take divestment action

By RACHEL ORR
Staff Writer

Student input will be a factor in the Endowment Board's vote today on divestiture, board members said Wednesday.

"Of course we're considering student input," said board member W. Travis Porter. "If there hadn't been much student input, I wouldn't have even considered the issue," he said.

If the University divests, Porter said, \$75 million would be lost from the present investment holdings. He said every financial analyst he had talked to said UNC would lose money if the holdings in South Africa were completely divested.

The money in these investments went for scholarships and grants for students and faculty members, he said.

"I'm very concerned about those students who wouldn't be able to attend without those scholarships," he said.

Board member Robert C. Eubanks Jr. said that although he considered student input on the issue, he felt his primary job on the Endowment Board was to protect the University's assets.

"I look more at what divestiture will do to the returns," Eubanks said.

Earl N. Phillips Jr., also a board member, said, "They've (students) made

a very good, strong point on the issue of total divestment."

However, he said, divestment's opponents also have presented a strong case. "It's not a black and white issue," Phillips said.

He said no one on the Endowment Board favored apartheid, the South African system of government where a white minority rules the black majority. The real debate, he said, was whether it was more effective to influence South Africa through divestment or through corporate involvement.

Eubanks said the United States needed to be stronger in South Africa to fight apartheid, and he thought the way to do that was through funding American corporations doing business in South Africa.

"I think (divestment) is exactly the wrong direction," he said.

Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III said he thought vocal student concern on the issue was healthy for the University and the United States.

"I'm pleased that our students are concerned about oppression in a foreign land," he said.

Personally, Fordham said, he maintained a pro-divestment stand. But

See BOARD page 8A

Support group set to rally, march before board meets

By JO FLEISCHER
Staff Writer

The Anti-Apartheid Support Group plans to march from Morehead Planetarium to the Carolina Inn this morning to demand that the Endowment Board divest of all its funds in businesses operating in South Africa.

The board is meeting today to consider divestment following their special meeting on the issue on April 4, when they voted unanimously to postpone the decision. Board members said they needed to study information that would be made available before the regular meeting April 24.

The support group plans to meet for a short rally at the planetarium before marching, said Robert Reid-Pharr, a group member.

"It's an open meeting, and we plan to go to the Board of Trustees meeting and wait out their decision," he said.

Support group member Paul Pickhardt said he hoped a lot of supporters would participate in the march and go to the meeting to show the board that the support group was more than just the "lunatic fringe."

"We want to show the board that we have broad support," Pickhardt said. "If it doesn't have any effect at this particular meeting it will give them something to remember in the future."

Support group members and their supporters agree that there is little chance that the Endowment Board will

'It doesn't look like they will (divest). In looking at their past votes, there seems to be a split on the board, with two members in favor of divestment and four against it.' — Bryan Hassel

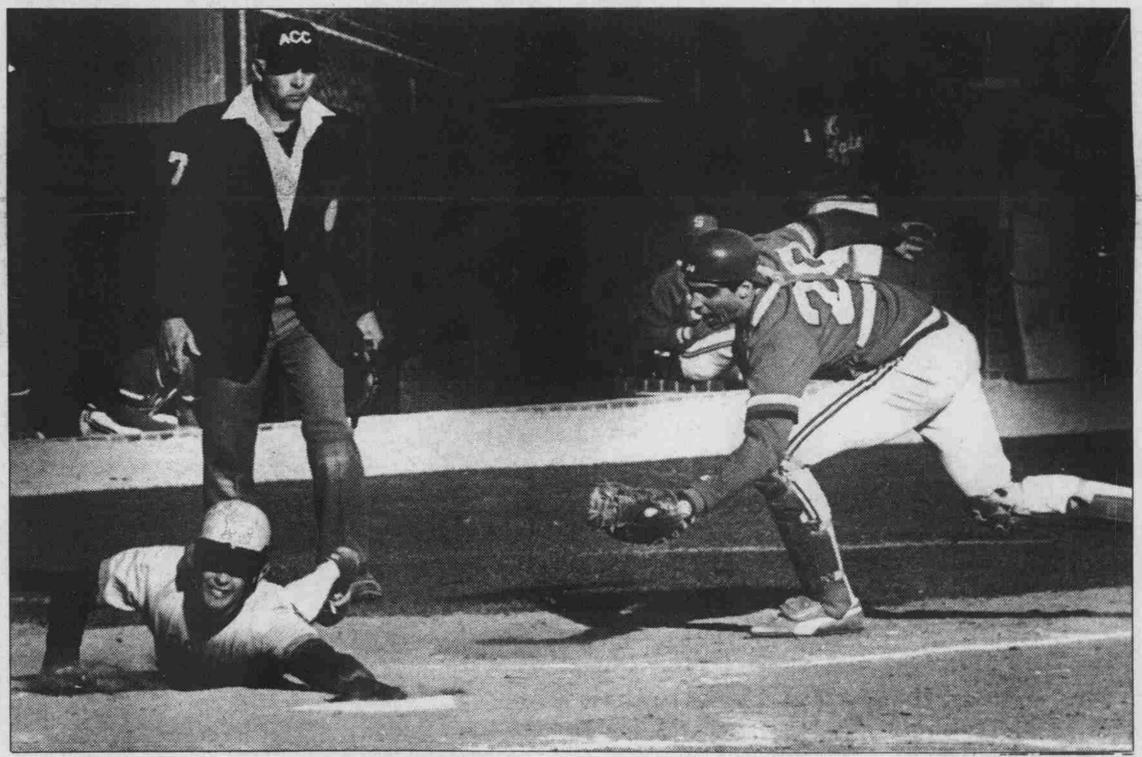
vote to divest. They say they are planning to continue the anti-apartheid movement in the event that divestment does not occur.

"It doesn't look like they will (divest)," said Student Body President Bryan Hassel. "In looking at their past votes there seems to be a split on the board, with two members in favor of divestment and four against it."

"We're looking toward the long term," Hassel said. "Over the summer we'll be doing research to try to refute their arguments and have something concrete to back up our position."

Eric "Wacko" Walker, a support group member, agreed: "They will probably not vote for total divestment, but it's a good possibility they may approve some sort of scholarship aid for black South Africans. This will be good, but it will fall short of our goals so we'll start the protests anew in the fall."

Safe



DTH/Dan Charlson

UNC's Jim Stone dives for home plate while N.C. State catcher Jim McNamara lunges to make the tag. Stone was safe, but the Tar Heels lost the game, 7-4, after a Wolfpack rally in the ninth inning. See story page 3B.

Warlick chosen 1987 mikeman on basis of boxer shorts content

By MATTHEW FURY
Staff Writer

As Tommy Warlick lazily sauntered up to his audience in Carmichael Auditorium on Wednesday night, he hardly seemed to be the kind of guy who would have anything to do with a mikeman competition. His shoulders drooped and he looked rather bored in his two-piece suit.

But then the junior from Gastonia kicked off his shoes and woke up the crowd with a mock striptease. Throwing his trousers over his shoulder, Warlick displayed a big blue letter "T" on his shorts. He ripped off four more layers of lettered shorts that finally spelled out "T-A-R-H-E-E-L-S." The crowd of about 250 was his.

They responded wildly as he broke his silence with his first cheer. He screamed out "C-A-R-O-L-I-N-A" until he was red in the face.

Twenty-seven randomly selected student judges chose Warlick over four other contestants as 1987 mikeman. The only criterion for being a judge was to have attended at least four Carolina football games.

While the primary quality a mikeman needed was enthusiasm, the contestants were also judged on their ability to handle difficult crowd situations. UNC Gymnastics Team Coach Derek Galvin, who hosted the competition, asked each contestant to show how he would handle the following situation in football game: "It's fourth and two on the two-yard line. (The opposition is) driving to win the game with 10 seconds left on the clock. The

score is 14-10 in our favor."

"We've been in that situation a lot this year," Warlick responded. "But we're winning. We're actually winning!"

The first contestant to take the stage was sophomore Gary Davis from Fuquay-Varina. "They call me rock because . . . (Davis smashes a beer can on his head), and they call me roll because . . . (He lifts his shirt and sticks out his stomach)." He then dropped his blue-flowered apron to show "rock and roll" written on the seat of his shorts.

"I used to live in Fuquay-Varina, but now I go to college," he said, as he took off his Fuquay-Varina sweatshirt to show one underneath, reading "College."

Davis then left the stage as he entered it, spreading his arms out and pretending to fly like an airplane.

Kenn Troom, the only freshman in the contest, wore an oversized black suit and a long polka-dotted tie. He led the crowd in what he said has been a longtime unofficial cheer at Carolina football games: "Please, don't throw the cards."

Troom, who is from Greensboro, overcame a rough moment in which he forgot a cheer in his routine. When an audience member called out "Go Big Blue Machine," Troom identified that as his forgotten cheer.

Junior Eric Walker from New Bern asked the crowd to make enough noise to wake up his ventriloquist's doll

See MIKEMAN page 8A

'86 commencement will feature traditional speech by new governor

By SMITHSON MILLS
Staff Writer

Commencement exercises for the class of 1986 will begin Sunday, May 11 at 10 a.m. in Kenan Stadium or in the Dean E. Smith Student Activities Center in case of rain, a report from the UNC News Bureau announced.

Governor James G. Martin, UNC President C.D. Spangler, and Senior Class President John Kennedy will speak, the report said.

Kennedy said he will emphasize to graduates that UNC will still need their support after they have left Chapel Hill. The senior class has a lot to be proud of in respect to its commitments and contributions to its members and the entire University, he said.

Kennedy said the class of 1986 should retain its unity even after graduation. "We need to keep our cohesiveness and class identity. If anything, I feel our class identity will increase after we graduate."

Governor Martin's appearance at commencement will be part of a long running tradition at UNC, he said. "It's a tradition that the Governor speak at commencement at UNC his first full year in office," he said.

After the commencement exercises, Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III will host a reception for parents, graduates, and visitors on the Polk Place lawn near South Building, the report said.

The report said that during the weekend of May 9-11 a whole host of alumni, graduation, and awards ceremonies will be held around campus.

Alumni reunion activities will begin with the Friday Frolic all-class social and supper May 9 on Fetzer Field at 5:30 p.m., and run through Sunday, finishing with the Old Students Club luncheon at 12:30 at the Carolina Inn. The annual alumni luncheon will be at 12:15 p.m. Saturday at the Carolina Inn.

Commissioning ceremonies will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. for the Navy ROTC in Hill Hall and for the Air Force ROTC at 2 p.m. in the Hanes Art Center Auditorium.

Several schools and departments will hold ceremonies on Sunday. They are as follows:

At 1 p.m.: The MBA Class of 1986 in Carroll Hall; the Department of Chemistry in Kenan Laboratories; the School of Journalism in Hill Hall; the School of Business Administration in the Great Hall of the Carolina Union; the Department of Classics in 212 Murphey Hall; and the Department of Mathematics in the Fetzer Courtyard.

At 1:30 p.m.: The Department of Physics and Astronomy in 215 Phillips Hall.

At 2 p.m.: The School of Library Science in 209 Manning Hall; the School of Social Work in 100 Hamilton Hall; and the School of Nursing in the Smith Student Activities Center.

At 3 p.m.: The School of Dentistry in Memorial Hall; the School of Pharmacy in Hill Hall; and the School of Public Health in Carroll Hall.

The School of Law will have a special ceremony at 5 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

The years teach much which the days never know. —Ralph Waldo Emerson