

Duke enters effort for blacks in education

By STEPHANIE VON ISENBURG
Staff Writer

A new program funded by the New York-based Dana Foundation with Duke University and five black colleges will encourage black students to work for doctorate degrees and will increase the low number of black college instructors, say officials at Duke and the Dana Foundation.

The idea for the program developed out of an earlier Dana Foundation program in which students worked with professors, said Marilyn Baldwin, higher education program director at the foundation.

The five black colleges chosen for the program — Hampton College, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Tuskegee University and Xavier University — stood out because they traditionally produced a large number of black college faculty, she said.

A successful recruiter of minority students, who is now at Duke, drew the foundation's attention to Duke,

she said.

"Duke wanted to be involved," Baldwin said.

The program will cost Dana Foundation \$1.4 million. Each black school will pay \$200,000, she said. Duke will pay around \$240,000.

The total cost will be \$2.8 million, she said.

The first group of students is being selected now and will learn in May if they have been chosen, she said.

All of the participants will work for a year with a mentor at the schools they now attend. They will then spend six weeks in a special summer program at Duke. The next year they will return to their original university, she said.

Students will receive the same amount of money during the program they would have made working, she said.

But the program is not need-based, she said. "Some students will receive zero dollars while others receive more."

"The nice thing about this program is that it is all positive incentive," she said. "We're just trying to make this a very, very attractive career possibility."

Not all of the participants are expected to go into college teaching, she said, but any improvement in the number of minority professors will be a success.

"The bottom line for black students is that industry is going to woo them — and at much higher salaries," said Carol Reuss, assistant UNC provost and professor of journalism.

But as university instructors, they will be challenged and offered the opportunity for research, she said.

"There's a real need for this type of program," said Allan Kirschner, vice president for progress and public policy at the United Negro College Fund.

"We need black role models at every step of the process — from pre-school to post-graduate study. This is the type of program that fills the void of too few black professors," Kirschner said.

"There has been a 20 percent drop in the number of black doctorate degrees in the past 10 years," he said. "That means that there will be fewer black professors and fewer black role models."

This decline is not only the fault of the universities, Kirschner said. "There has to be an effort that goes beyond the university."

Universities cannot always attract undergraduates to work for higher degrees. Undergraduate schools must encourage their students to go on for degrees, he said.

Financial assistance provides an

incentive for black students to go to graduate school, he said.

"Without these incentives many students wouldn't think about going on," Kirschner said. "Fellowships dramatize the need for blacks to go on to graduate school."

Other foundations have established programs to increase the number of black graduate students. But this is one of the first programs to focus on encouraging students to teach, he said.

The program was initiated by Duke, said Henry Dearman, associate dean of the UNC Graduate School. All of the schools involved are private schools.

UNC has its own programs for encouraging minority students to work for a post-graduate degree, he said.

Many universities have created initiatives to increase the number of minority students who receive doctorates and become professors, he said.

"The Duke program is important — but it's not the only one," he said.

The University created a program last year, in which students spent six weeks on campus doing research with professors, said UNC Provost Dennis O'Connor. The program is offered to rising senior minority students.

"The program seems to be working, but how effective it will be — time will tell. We'll see how many go to grad school," he said.

Duke had programs for recruiting both minority undergraduate and graduate students before the Dana program was established, said Tim Warmath, assistant to the senior vice president of Duke.

Merger, name change considered for NCMH

By JANNETTE PIPPIN
Staff Writer

North Carolina Memorial Hospital (NCMH) may join the N.C. Children's Hospital and the N.C. Neuropsychiatric Hospital to become the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill if a bill passes the state Senate.

"Making people more aware that we are associated with the University is something that we've been trying to do for several years," said John Stokes, director of Institutional Relations at NCMH. "We want to reflect the fact that we are the University hospital."

By combining the three hospitals and changing the name, Stokes said the hospital administration hoped to let people know the three facilities were the University's teaching hospitals.

UNC is recognized nationally and internationally as a high-quality learning institution, Stokes said. But as it is now, the hospitals are not as highly recognized outside the state. "We want to be recognized as part of the University."

"The changes called for in this master facility plan have been in the works for two years, but this is the first time the plan has been introduced by the legislature," Stokes said.

The bill was introduced to the House by Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, on March 15. Since that time, the bill has passed the House

and is now being discussed in the Senate Human Resources Committee, according to Judy Caveness of the House Clerk's Office. No date has been set for when the Senate will vote on the bill, she said.

Along with the name change to the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill, the master plan also calls for construction to be done in the 1990s, Stokes said. The plan calls for the neuropsychiatric hospital to be built east of NCMH.

No information on the expected costs of the name change was available.

The bill also realigns the terms of office of the hospital's board of directors, Stokes said. The main change is the length of terms, Stokes said. "Up until this point, directors served until they retired."

According to House Bill 584, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) would create a board of directors consisting of 12 members. Nine of the directors would be appointed by the BOG, and three would be ex officio members.

The nine members would be appointed from the professional public-at-large, and the ex officio members would be UNC vice chancellors for health affairs, business and finance and the dean of the medical school. All members would serve a four-year term for no more than three consecutive terms.

Officials contemplate possible N.C. response to oil spill emergency

By KIMBERLEY MAXWELL
Staff Writer

The threat of an oil disaster like the one in Valdez, Alaska, occurring off the N.C. coast is minimal, but officials are still concerned about how the state would react to a similar tanker accident.

"At present, it's reasonably unlikely that we'd have an oil spill of magnitude," said Jim Sheppard, spokesman for the N.C. Division of Environment Management.

But it is possible that the oil tankers that routinely pass the N.C. coastline could have an accident and cause a situation similar to the one in Alaska.

"As long as the tankers are out there, there is a potential for a spill," said Derb Carter, attorney for several N.C. environmental groups.

There have been minor oil spills in North Carolina in the past, but the largest oil spill the state ever had was at Cape Fear in Wilmington, said Steve Benton, consistency coordinator for the N.C. Office of Coastal Management.

The spill was attributed to human error, Benton said. A worker turned a pump on and accidentally left it that way.

There is no oil drilling off the N.C. coast at the present time, but Mobil Oil Corporation is preparing to submit a plan to the federal government to allow exploratory drilling for natural gas, said Mike Kimmitt, public affairs manager of Mobil Exploration and Producing U.S. Corp.

"We are working on an exploratory plan along with seven other companies who have an interest in exploratory drilling in federal waters."

But the plan is still contingent on a few details, he added. Mobil is conducting studies for area currents and doing surveys of the ocean surface.

Mobil expects to find five trillion cubic feet of natural gas off the N.C. coast, and there is also a possibility of finding petroleum.

This will not be the first time exploratory drilling has been done in North Carolina, Kimmitt said. One well was placed in Pamlico Sound in Cape Hatteras in 1950, and two were set up west of Hatteras Island in 1965 — both by Mobil.

But the previous drilling took place on the N.C. shores, not in the coastal waters, Kimmitt said. The proposal will involve drilling in federal waters 40 miles off the coast. If the exploratory drilling yields enough natural gas or petroleum to make it a worthwhile venture, Mobil will look into setting up permanent structures.

Mobil will consider supply and demand, current prices and anticipated future prices when making its final decision, Kimmitt said.

Before Mobil can begin drilling, there are several steps the company must take, Kimmitt said. The plan will be submitted to the U.S. Minerals Management Service, which will have 30 days to act on the plan.

The proposal must then be sent back to Mobil to give it time to correct any problems. The state government receives a copy of the proposal and can make general comments about it.

After the Minerals Management Service approves the plan, the state will formally receive it. The state must act within 90 days on the proposal and can ask for an extension if necessary. If the state refuses to accept the proposal after revisions are made, Mobil can appeal the decision to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Since these steps are so complicated, it is hard to predict exactly when the exploratory drilling will begin, Kimmitt said.

An oil spill contingency plan will be included with the proposal sent to the federal and state governments, even though natural gas is gaseous and thus wouldn't pose an environmental risk (since it wouldn't spill), Kimmitt said. This plan will outline in detail the steps Mobil Oil Corp. will take in case of an oil spill.

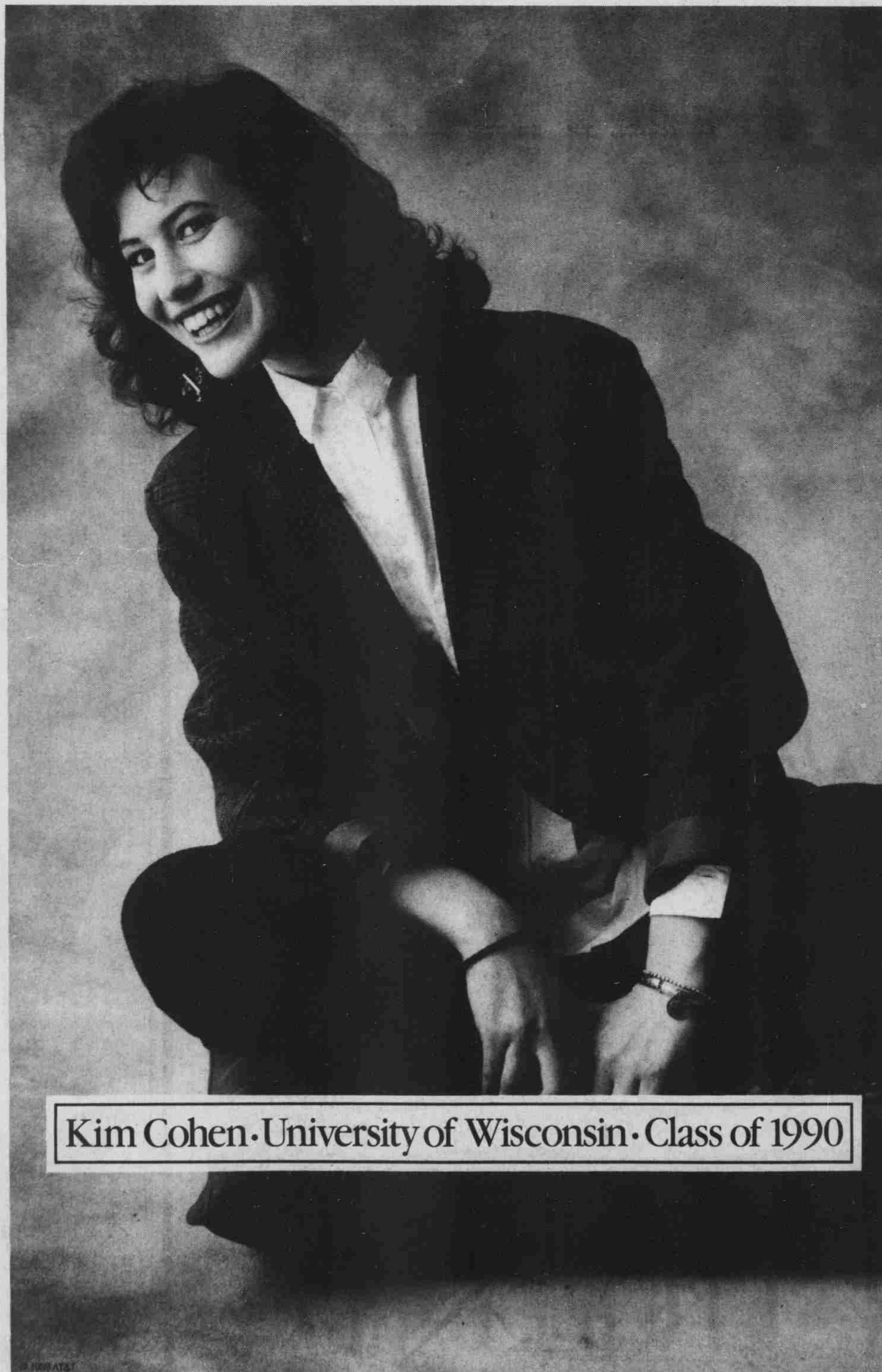
Mobil plans to have on-site equipment on hand in case of such a spill,

Kimmitt said.

But the place an oil spill occurs determines who is supposed to clean it up.

Usually the company responsible for the spill is involved, Sheppard said.

“No matter how bad they are, Grandma loves to hear the latest jokes.”

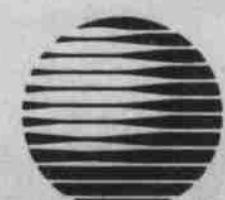


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