

# Native Chinese at UNC comment on student protests

By **CHUCK WILLIAMS**  
Staff Writer

UNC students and faculty members from China say they support the student protests in their homeland calling for a more democratic government, but they don't anticipate any major concessions from China's communist government anytime soon.

The protests began last week after the death of disgraced former party chief Hu Yaobang, an outspoken reformist of communist China.

Students in virtually all of Beijing's universities have gone on strike by not attending classes, and protest leaders say student participation is close to 100 percent.

Government officials in China continue to warn the protesters to cease their activities, but no serious attempt has been made to put a stop to the demonstrations.

Student protests are not a new phenomenon in China, said Lawrence Kessler, associate professor of history at UNC.

"It (student protests) has been going on since 1978. The government cracked down then and again in 1979 and 1987."

The reasons behind the protests and the steps the students want the government to take are not well-defined, said Hsi-Sheng Chi, UNC professor of political science from

China.

"I don't think there are really well-formed opinions," he said. "Students would like to see more competence and honesty in government. Their views of democracy come from contact with foreign visitors or foreign reading materials."

"As far as democracy is concerned, it's more of a moving toward a freer society," Kessler said. "But they have made some specific demands such as more government attention to education. I think the goal of democracy is a fairly vague one."

Students have led the calls for change in China because they are better suited to be involved in demonstrations.

"Students are better suited because they have no family responsibility," said Chi. "The kind of pressure the government could apply would be to expel them from school."

A common worker could be subject to all kinds of retaliation including losing his job, he said.

Students are involved in the protests for many different reasons, said Xue-Feng Liu, president of the Friendship Association of Chinese Students at UNC.

"One is students know more about democracy," Liu said. "Another is they have less responsibility to family and job. The third reason may be the

common employee realizes that democracy needs to come slowly."

The common people of China seem to support the protests of the students although they are not publicly vocal with their support.

"I'm not sure they're supportive of the call for (immediate) democracy," Kessler said. "They probably applaud the students' attack on the govern-

ment's policies that everyone has problems with."

Although the government is not expected to fold to the demands, local Chinese see the demonstrations as having some impact.

"Personally, I think the protests are good," Liu said. "We need democracy very badly. We couldn't handle full democracy now, however. We need

a relatively stable government to develop our economy."

The government cannot afford to make changes in response to these protests, said Chi.

"As a political science professor, I don't want to express a personal opinion," he said. "But, in terms of political analysis, rarely would leadership make changes due to these kinds

of protests."

It is hard to predict how forcefully the government will respond to the protests, Kessler said.

"I don't think the government will cave in," he said. "But as to how heavy-handed they will be is hard to predict. I can't see that they will make any major concessions to the students."

# Researchers recovering from vandalism

By **CRYSTAL BERNSTEIN**  
Staff Writer

Extensive vandalism of animal research facilities by animal rights activists at the University of Arizona in Tucson has not hampered biomedical research at the institution, researchers say.

On April 3, the Animal Liberation Front, a national activist group, burned down a building that housed the administration offices of animal research and an animal facility that was under renovation. The group vandalized two other facilities and took about 1,200 laboratory animals — mostly mice, dogs and rats. The group has claimed responsibility for all of the activities.

Though the cost of the damage has not been officially estimated, the total is between \$150,000 and \$200,000, said John Mulder, director of UA's Animal Care.

Most of the damage has been cleaned up, and two new animal research facilities are being built, which will be more secure than those vandalized, said Steve Emerine, assistant director of public information at the university.

Security has been increased at existing laboratories as well, he said. "We have greatly increased our security at the locations where we do research on animals."

Animal rights activists continue to protest in the area. Sixteen members of Voices for Animals, a statewide animal rights group, were arrested Sunday for chaining themselves to the front gate of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tucson, Emerine said.

The group is trying at some point in time to abolish animal research forever, said Roberta Wright, president of Voices for Animals. She supports the actions of the Animal Liberation Front.

"We are not the people who are committing the violence. It's the other side," she said. "They're the ones who are collecting a paycheck for the bloodletting that they do every day of their professional lives."

The vandalism and protests have not slowed down laboratory research at the school, Mulder said. "I think business is going on pretty much as usual. They've come out with all the more resolve to do research and to have the right of research upheld."

Some University of Arizona students have recently formed a Coalition of Students for Animal Research, an organization that supports the use of animals in biomedical research, he said.

Though no laboratory facilities have been vandalized recently at UNC, terrorist action cannot be ruled out for the future, said Patricia Poteat, special assistant to the provost.

"We have no reason to expect a direct action on this campus by the Animal Liberation Front, but it's very, very disturbing that it should happen anywhere," she said.

Vandalism of laboratories could happen at any university, said Robert Wood, associate professor of pediatrics at UNC.

"Given the nature of the things that these people have done, I don't think any place can be considered safe or immune," he said.

# Recruitment programs seek minority teachers

By **JENNIFER JOHNSTON**  
Staff Writer

The small number of minority teachers in the N.C. public school system has many education experts worried, and recruitment programs are being stepped up to combat the problem.

One of every eight teachers was a member of a minority in 1980, according to figures from the National Education Association (NEA). By the year 2000, a drop to one out of 20 can be expected.

"We need more minority teachers not only to serve as role models for minority students, but to give all students a sense of the plurality in the world," said Nancy Kochuk, spokeswoman for the NEA.

The NEA has recruiting programs aimed specifically at blacks, Hispanics, American Indians and Asians. The programs are implemented at schools throughout the nation.

"We're trying to broaden our appeal to students by offering interesting programs and having more visible student recruiting to get more involvement," said Kochuk.

The number of minority teachers is dropping for several reasons, she said.

Teaching, which traditionally was the domain of women and minorities, is losing its pool of new workers.

There has also been an overall decline in the number of minority

students who continue their education after high school, Kochuk said. Financial disadvantages are taking their toll, she said.

The low salaries of teachers haven't helped to attract minorities to the teaching profession.

"A number of students we have talked to say they do not consider teaching because the pay is so low," said Francis Cummings, associate executive director of the N.C. Association of Educators (NCAE).

In 1986, the NCAE conducted a study which showed that minority teachers in North Carolina were an endangered species. Operation Teach began as a result of the study in 1987.

Operation Teach is aimed at the minority students in the seventh through 12th grades. The program involves monthly seminars with information, training and study skills building, Cummings said.

Parents are involved in the program as well. They participate in seminars on helping their kids and encouraging them in their studies, she said.

Another effort to bring students into the teaching profession is the N.C. Teaching Fellows Program.

This scholarship program was created by the General Assembly during the 1986 session. Every year, 400 students are given \$5,000 to go to one of 13 colleges in North Carolina in return for becoming teachers in the N.C. public school system.

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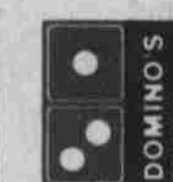
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