Private investigator stirs up publicity for client

From Associated Press reports

MILWAUKEE - Private investigator Ira Robins proudly describes it as

his "life's work. For six years he has risked slander suits, amassed \$30,000 in debt and endured ridicule while seeking evidence to reverse the murder conviction of former Playboy waitress and one-time fugitive Lawrencia Bembenek.

"I so much believe in what I'm doing you couldn't pay me; it's something you have to do from the heart," said Robins, 48. "This is an opportunity that people don't get very often in their

Robins, a former police officer, said the volunteer investigation he began in 1984 has left him without a home - he lives in the basement of a friend's house - and without enough money to repair his wrecked car or pay support for his 12-year-old son, alimony to his former wife or back taxes to the government.

He also has failed to persuade authorities to free Bembenek, who was convicted in the 1981 killing of Christine Schultz, the former wife of Bembenek's then-husband, Elfred Schultz.

Police

they don't," she said. "When you get an emergency call in your car you may make it there, you may not. We're used to defective equipment."

Womble said two of the cars had more than 80,000 miles on them. The anonymous officer called the

cars "death traps." The condition of the department has lowered morale, he said.

University would exercise more con-

some form of control," he said. "Frater-

nities as an organization don't have

low and DeVitto hasn't done anything to help it." Other officers said morale among the

officers was good, but relations with the administration were not. Womble said, "The officers are close,

"We don't know what that word

we're trying to do a good job and stick together. But we're in a situation where

the administration doesn't have any respect for us so we have no respect for

means here," he said. "Morale is super Edwards also said there was low

> morale among officers. "Morale here has been low since 1987 and no one has done anything to help it," she said. "De Vitto has made it worse. He gets very upset when his authority is questioned."

from page

from page 1

such as the number of coaches and

athletic scholarships. The Atlantic Coast Conference already enforces many of the measures proposed in the reforms, Hardin said.

"(The University's) graduation rate among athletes is almost indistinguishable from graduation rate among the general student body," he said.

In other business, Hardin distributed a new report to BOT members that stated UNC is not competitive in employees' benefits with other universities and businesses that draw from the same

hiring pool. The report, prepared by Hewitt Associates of Atlanta, stated the University must assume a considerable portion of

the cost if it is to raise fringe benefits high enough to compete for faculty and

The firm created a benefits index by comparing UNC with 13 major universities it competes with for faculty and 11 triangle area companies it competes with for staff, Hardin said.

The University pays about half of the benefits' costs for faculty and staff, while competing schools and businesses pay almost the full cost of benefits, the report stated.

"We are not competitive frankly with most universities in our group," Hardin

Of 13 universities, UNC ranked 12th in both total value and employer-paid benefits. UNC ranked last out of 11 triangle businesses in terms of employerpaid benefits, but fifth in overall ben-

The firm also asked employees how they felt about their benefits and what changes they would make.

"The percentage index (employee opinion) pretty well bears out the benefits index," Hardin said. "Faculty perceive (benefits) as worse than staff."

Employees said the two worst areas in terms of benefits were retirement and medical coverage, the report stated.

At the meeting, Hardin also addressed problems with Greek organizations on campus. Referring to the alleged

much supervision." chicken-kicking at an SAE mixer, Hardin said fraternities must learn to

Hardin cited the University's lack of legal control over fraternities, tolerance control their members' actions or the by the Chapel Hill Police Department and inability of alumni who own fraternity houses to control members as ex-"If they can't handle the freedom they now enjoy, we need to provide

amples of the lack of supervision. Fraternity leaders probably would make plans to improve fraternities' ac-

tions, but he did not know if fraternity members would follow the guidelines. Hardin said.

In other business, the BOT decided to allow administrators and students to resolve the issue about the statues in front of Davis Library. Members said they did not think the BOT should be involved in the decision.

from page 1

Dedication

trol "one way or another.

the sculpture be moved to a less public spot.

Balk said people offended by the sculpture had misinterpreted it. The aesthetic value of the statues has not been a central issue.

Hardin said University police were keeping a 24-hour watch on the statues at his request. The increased security won't cost much, he said.

"I don't think anyone on campus would vandalize the sculpture, but you can't tell what someone might do, given all the exposure it's received," he said.

Hardin did not know if he would attend the meeting Hildebolt called for Tuesday, he said. "If I'm available, I probably will go by just to listen," he said.

Hildebolt said he called the meeting because he thought students should debate the issues surrounding the sculpture and what to do with the artwork.

"The real point is to open (the meeting) up and let people speak," he said. "Anyone's invited to speak their mind or just listen. If it degenerates into a shouting match, I think I would just have to call it off," he said. "We'll ask anyone who wants to yell and shout to leave.

"There are going to be a lot of people paying attention to what we do Tuesday night, and if we can't maintain control

we're going to look pretty dumb." Hildebolt asked the University's Board of Trustees at their meeting Fri-

day to leave the decision to the students. "It was my opinion, and I think a lot of the trustees agreed, that it really wasn't a place where the trustees should step in," he said.

A decision may not be made on the sculpture for some time, Hildebolt said.

"People who are saying 'we want this decision made in three days' should realize that the decision you could make

an initial idea," he said. "After that it

work during its creation, Massey said.

The University's only role in the place-

ment of the statues was the preparation

of the site. Balk placed the statues in

front of Davis with the help of her own

installers.

The committee did not see Balk's

becomes part of the artistic process."

in three days probably would not be good one," he said.

"I don't think anyone would be reasonable in demanding that they be guaranteed it could stay or be guaranteed it would go that soon."

Hildebolt and Hardin said they had not decided if they favored moving the They said the debate sparked by the

sculpture had been positive for the campus.

Hardin said, "There hasn't been this good a discussion about sensitive ideas on campus for quite some time. This has gotten people thinking about things that we previously ignored.

"The most positive thing about it is that we've all learned something about the subjectivity of art," he said.

"This is not a case of someone doing a racist act. This is a case of artistic expression being the subject of honest disagreement."

"In no way was it the artist's inten-

tion to represent something sexist or

racist, and I think people are consistent

in acknowledging that," Massey said.

"As individuals, we can approach the

same object and see different things in

it. It's part of the role of the University,

to discuss and debate, and part of the

purpose of art."

from page 1

Art

sculpture's future if protests continued. "Thank gosh I'm not in that position," he said. "If it becomes something big, and umpteen students gang up on this piece, they should take a look at it. In my opinion, if they ask an artist to do something, and they approve the sketches and put the artwork up, then they should learn to live with it."

William Massey, associate vice chancellor of University Relations, said the committee formed in 1985 that decided about the artwork consisted of Massey, administrators of four offices, the Class of '85 president and the gift selection chairman of the class.

The committee picked artist Julia Balk unanimously and approved her sketches of the statues, Massey said.

"They were just an artist's sketch of

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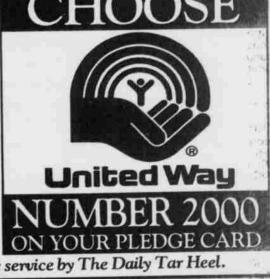


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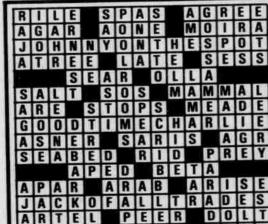
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