



David Teague helps a coastal resident clean a yard filled with debris left from Hurricane Fran. (Photo courtesy of Carrie Parrish)

MC team spends fall break helping victims of Hurricane Fran

By Mike McDermott
Editor

Fall break: most of us look forward to going home, visiting friends and family, and getting some well-deserved rest. But for Reverend Carrie Parrish and a team of civic-minded students and faculty members, fall break was spent on a mission of mercy to aid in the relief of the victims of hurricane Fran.

The group headed to the Swansboro/Hubert area on the North Carolina coast on Oct. 11. The intended goal was to help in any way they could. The team members agreed that they accomplished this goal, but also said they got more than they bargained for out of the mission.

Rev. Parrish explained that their role in the relief effort was "to do whatever work was assigned as thoroughly and helpfully as we could." Upon arriving at the Methodist church in Hubert, the team was given an orientation briefing and then sent to sleep on "Marine Corps cots," she explained. "The next morning," Parrish said, "we got up and began to clean up fallen trees and scattered debris that the hurricane had caused."

Team member Summer Gilmore said, "Hard work pays off, even though it's just a smile on someone's face." This seemed to be the added outcome to the mission that was unanticipated at the outset.

Rev. Parrish added, "The human dimension impacted every member of the team. There was an 82-year-old woman who looked so frail that she could just blow away. She was on an oxygen tank 24 hours a day. The students loved her, and she cried when we left."

"There was another woman who we felt was taking advantage of the relief effort to get non-hurricane related work done," she continued, "but we came to realize that she was an isolated, lonely woman who just wanted social contact. She kept reaching into the van as we pulled away. Another lady was so touched when we cleaned up her yard that she got in the van and went to the next site with us to help out."

The team was not acting alone, though, as Parrish explained. "There is a Methodist response network that is dispatched whenever there is a natural disaster. There is a pre-disaster gear-up in which the leadership folks are sent immediately to the area," she said. This response network is headed by a natural disaster committee within the United Methodist Church. Parrish said, "The leaders get the local people involved and the local minister is in charge of that area." The order of precedence for disasters is local, then national, and finally international.

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Affirmative action debate heats up on campuses as election approaches

The College Press Service

SACRAMENTO, Calif.--To some, it is a racist "preference program" that stigmatizes rather than heals.

Others view it as a path to equal opportunity; a way to rectify past wrongs and promote diversity.

Either way, affirmative action--a broad range of policies that seek to boost opportunities for minorities and women by providing them special consideration in university admissions, among other areas--has become a hot, if not contentious, issue this election year.

At their convention, Republicans made it clear they favor ending affirmative action. The Democrats, in the words of President Bill Clinton, prefer "mending," not "ending" affirmative action.

But just what form affirmative action reform should take is a question on the minds of many university administrators, who ask: How can universities shape the makeup of future classes to reflect a diverse society without using racial, ethnic, or sex preferences?

The gap in college participation between whites and minorities is "cause for concern," according to Robert Atwell, president of the American Council on Education. "We have a long way to go before we can claim to have achieved equality of educational opportunity and achievement," he said.

Quick-and-easy solutions appear to be elusive. Yet the affirmative action question is one that university administrators increasingly are being forced to confront. In the past year and a half, several court actions and a California ballot initiative have pointed to a shift in the status quo:

•Last March 18, a federal appeals court decision shocked university administrators when it barred the affirmative action program at the University of Texas law school.

According to the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals, which covers Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, race could not be a determining factor in deciding admissions. The case directly

challenged a 1978 benchmark case, *California Board of Regents v. Bakke*, which stated diversity was a desired goal and race could be a factor.

On July 1, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case, leaving many to wonder whether creating diversity can be considered a compelling enough goal to use race in determining college admissions.

As a result, race has been excluded as an admissions factor at the University of Texas. At the urging of its state attorney general, the University of Georgia is re-examining its use of racial guidelines in university admissions. Colorado's attorney general has urged public colleges to find ways to financially assist students without using race as a factor. Arizona's Board of Regents and the University of Michigan are reviewing alternative ways to achieve diversity.

•In California, a high-profile battle is being waged over Proposition 209, a November ballot measure that would end racial and gender preferences in all state hiring and university admissions.

If the measure gathers enough votes, students would no longer check a box describing their race on university applications.

And that's the way it should be, argues University of California regent Ward Connerly, one of the most vocal opponents of affirmative action.

When students are admitted to universities based on their skin color, "we can call it diversity, we can call it whatever we want--it's discrimination," said Connerly, an African-American. "Unless we treat all applicants the same, we're injecting poison into the body politic."

Elizabeth Toledo, president of the California National Organization of Women, disagrees. "What drives affirmative action programs is widespread patterns of discrimination that need to be addressed," she told Connerly during a recent debate.

One thing both agree on: the nation's collective future is at stake when Californian voters go to the polls Nov. 5.

"Whatever message Califor-

How can universities shape the makeup of future classes to reflect a diverse society without using racial, ethnic, or sex preferences?

nia sends out will be felt across the country," Toledo said.

Diana Norman's story:

How affirmative action benefits

For Diana Norman, a University of California-Davis senior, college never seemed to be an option.

"I was a waitress for nine years," she said. "I never really thought about going to college right after high school."

Norman, 26, is the daughter of a Guatemalan mother and an American father. In her Latina family, it was assumed that girls didn't need a college education, she said.

But then she got involved with Math-English-Science Achievement, or MESA, a group which helps minority students attend community college. Through the group, she received tutoring and career guidance at no cost.

"I found out...you don't have to be a waitress for the rest of your life," she said. "I found out I was eligible to transfer to UC-Davis."

Once there, she got involved with several programs that help minorities, such as the Minority Academic Talent Roster. Norman, who studies animal science, has been invited to national research conferences and was recently accepted into a science honorary society at Davis.

"I was really thankful," she

said. "There's so many things I've done that I never thought I'd do. It never occurred to me until people give you an opportunity to see your potential."

Norman stresses that her grades and credits got her into UC-Davis--not her race. "I'm sure that happens," she said. "I don't think they should do that. It doesn't help the student."

She supports affirmative action in the form of special programs that help minorities by giving them mentoring, tutoring, career guidance, and financial aid. It's necessary to promote diversity on mostly white campuses, she said.

"I still never see a Latina teacher," she said, adding that Latina students make up only about three percent of the student body at UC-Davis. "There are not a lot of mentors out there for black people."

She is voting against Proposition 209 because she thinks it "will benefit white males," she said. "A lot of people think, 'oh, affirmative action is [that] they can get in easier.' It's a misconception. I wish they could take an hour and read what really comes out of [affirmative action.] Overall, I think people on campus are really ignorant."

Norman recently voiced her thoughts at a campus panel discussion on Proposition 209. Effie

See AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, page 2

Unusual scholarships available for students ranging from southpaw freshmen to redheads

The College Press Service

LEWISBURG, Pa.- All four years at a Pennsylvania high school, Jennifer Parisella ran varsity track and cross country, and urged her teams on as a cheerleader.

Now she's trading in her running sneakers and pompons for free tuition at Bucknell University.

Parisella, a 17-year-old freshman, won an unusual Bucknell scholarship for Mt. Carmel (Pa.) High School graduates who promise not to smoke, drink, or "engage in strenuous athletic contests."

Without the rather unusual reward, Parisella couldn't afford the \$26,000 yearly price tag at Bucknell, her first choice for college.

"It was tough coming here, [but] they offered me an unbelievable deal," she said, adding that even her books are covered. "I'm not paying anything to go here."

Every year, hundreds of oddball endowments like the Bucknell scholarship are offered to college students who might not fit the traditional mold of high school valedictorian or superstar athlete.

The scholarships may be wacky and weird, but they'll put cold, hard cash in your pocket...if you're the right candidate.

At North Carolina State University, students can win \$8,000 each year if their last name is Gatlin or Gatling. Whirly Girls Scholarships worth \$2,000 are awarded to women pursuing careers as helicopter pilots.

There's college scholarships for dwarfs, fat people, veteran golf caddies, left-handed freshmen and even children of parents who host Tupperware home parties. The David Letterman Scholarship at Ball State University is for a telecommunications major with an "average yet creative" mind.

For a short while, there was even a scholarship for a "lady of the night." The award stemmed from a judge's efforts to clear Seattle's streets by giving prostitutes a cash incentive to trade night work for college courses.

The scholarship bombed, most likely because of its unsightly name. For a while, the International Boar Semen Scholarship offered \$500 to Future Farmers of America who planned to study swine management.

"There was a lot of protest over that one," said Joe Gargiulo, public relations director at National Research Scholarship Service, which compiles an annual "Top 10" list of strange awards. "But they just

changed the name."

In some cases, what is perceived a "unusual" scholarship is simply an award created by a university alumnus desiring to help a student much like him or herself, according to Gargiulo.

"Good students, and medical, dental, law and psychology [students] are all pretty well covered," he said. "Then, all of a sudden, take a person like me."

Gargiulo, a first-generation American, grew up with an Italian father and a Mexican mother and often drew fire from teachers because he didn't read or write English well.

"If I were to give a scholarship," he said, "I'd be interested in another person who had problems with the language. You would say 'that's unusual.' Not to me, it isn't."

That's the case at Bucknell, where the scholarship for teetotaling, non-athletic types was donated by a frugal bachelor named Joseph Deppen who lived with his sister, an unmarried woman named Gertrude. Both were Bucknell alums who weren't on any sports teams.

Upon his death in 1963, Deppen left \$1 million to the university for students who are not "habitual users" of alcohol, tobacco or narcot-

ics and who "shall not participate in strenuous athletic contests."

The university considers "strenuous athletic contests" to be varsity sports, said Kathie Dibell, associate director of public relations at Bucknell.

"If a student wants to play a weekend game of golf or tennis, or go bowling, he or she can still be a Deppen scholar," she said.

At Juniata College, the Beckley award is given to a student who is needy, academically eligible and left-handed. According to the college, the fund was started by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Beckley, two southpaws who fell in love after they were paired together on Juniata's tennis team.

"As a member of Left-handers International once noted, 'The only American institution that currently favors left-handers is the highway toll booth,'" the college said in a statement. "With the Beckley award, however, this overlooked minority will find at least one educational institution behind them."

Unusual gifts, in fact, are nothing to Juniata. The late Will Judy, publisher of Chicago's *Dog World* magazine, donated funds for a room



Junior forward Kemal Kansu currently ranks ninth in the DIAC in scoring with 16 points on six goals and four assists. The Monarchs are ranked second in the South region and 12th in the NCAA-III. (Photo by Jamee Lynch)

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