YEAR IN REVIEW

Burnette Misrepresents School Background Nike, UNC Officials Sign **\$4.7 Million Contract**

Editor's note: This article originally appe the Dec. 9 edition of The Daily Tar Heel BY KELLY RYAN

CITY EDITO AND AMY PINIAK

STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education member LaVonda Burnette, who billed herself as a UNC student during the November campaign, said Dec. 8 that she had not enrolled in a UNC class this semester.

not enrolled in a UNC class this semester. After receiving a tip from a local resi-dent that Burnette, 23, was not a UNC student, the University Registrar's Office confirmed Dec. 8 that no record of Burnette's enrollment existed in UNC's computer files, which date back to 1968. Burnette said she had called UNC and Chapel Hill High School to request that her records be restricted after she discov-ered that members of Putting Children First, a parents' watchdog group, had been

First, a parents' watchdog group, had been asking for her high school records. Assistant University Registrar Kathy Allen said any student or former student had the right or restrict the release of data,

which was normally public information. But if someone sought restricted infor-mation, the registrar's office would not say that no file existed, Allen said. "(Instead,) the caller is told that the information is restricted and cannot be released without the student's permission."

Every student who has enrolled at the University since 1968 is in the University's

computer files, Allen said. Burnette confirmed during a telephone interview that she had not been enrolled in a University class this semester but had been sitting in on an English course. She

repeatedly declined to reveal the course title or instructor of the class. "I wasn't assigned a class," she said. "I didn't sign up for it. After talking to folks, they recommended that I start sitting in, and I bought the bocks, and I participated and what not.

In an earlier interview Dec. 8, Burnette said the name of her teaching assistant was Jeff Jones, whom The Daily Tar Heel contacted. Jones, who was not listed in the UNC phone book, said he taught an En-glish 12 section Burnette was taking.

Although Jones would not give the course section number or his supervising professor's name, he said Burnette was an excellent student. "She is an excellent student — very opinionated and outspoken in class," Jones said. But Susan Stedman, program assistant

for the composition program in the En-glish department, said there was no Jeff

Jones teaching any section of English 12. "I'm the one who puts them on the payroll," Stedman said. "There is no Jeff

nes on the payroll." Burnette said in a later interview that

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School board member LaVONDA BURNETTE has not enrolled at UNC.

she was willing to accept her mistake for providing false information about her class but added that she planned to enroll in a history class for the spring semester. "I do know I shouldn't have done what

I do know i shouldn't have done what I did," she said. "It wasn't as though I was trying to mislead the public. It took a lot of hard work to get where I am. "I haven't done anything. It was poor

judgment on my part. This is something that will ruin me the rest of my life." Although the registrar's office had no record of her, Burnette said she had taken

classes through the evening college and through the Continuing Education Pro-gram. She added that she had not planned to enroll in a class next semester in order to find a job, buy a car and provide some income for her child. "But right now, I feel obligated to go ahead and take a class."

Burnette denied that she had run her campaign stressing her status as a UNC student. "Running for school board and being a part of UNC has never been a part of my platform of mine," she said Dec. 8.

"It never came up during the campaign." But one of her campaign fliers states. "(LaVonda Burnette) is a lifelong member of First Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, and she takes classes through the evening col-lege at UNC-Chapel Hill." Burnette said she had told local voters that she was enrolled part-time. She said

that she was throned part-line. She said that she gave the wrong information con-cerning her TA's name because she had been receiving prank phone calls. "I didn't want to get anyone in trouble," she said. "Jeff Jones does not exist. The information I gave you — I made a mistake, and I never should have given you the wrong name."

Yi-Hsin Chang and Justin Williams contributed

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BY MICHAEL WORKMAN UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC head basketball coach Dean Smith and University officials signed a four-year contract Saturday with Nike Inc. that calls for UNC's athletic teams to wear the

solution of the solution of th charge. The men's and women's soccer teams have chosen to wear Adidas prod-

Nike officials have told University offi-Nike officials have told University offi-cials that the contract is the most lucrative in college sports. Athletic Director John Swofford originally had announced the agreement July 20, but the contract hit a snag when UNC-system President C.D. Spangler called for public disclosure of the pact shortly after Swofford's announce-ment

At the UNC Faculty Council meeting Sept. 10, Chancellor Paul Hardin said Smith had made a mistake by negotiating the contract without conferring with Uni

Friday 6:30 am-9 pm

located on 15-501, in Straw Valley

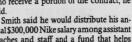
versity administrators. Smith said Saturday that he had followed the rules in negotiating the contract. "Paul (Hardin) made a mistake in thinking I couldn't negotiate," Smith said. "I can egotiate - it's been in my contract since

Smith also said he had not wanted to similar also said he had how wanted to make the terms of the contract public. "I don't think it's fair to Nike. Every contract has always been confidential," he said. "(Other coaches) see what Carolina's mak-

ing, and they want more." The disclosure also embarrasses coaches who receive a portion of the contract, he said

Smith sale he would distribute its an-nual \$300,000 Nike salary among assistant coaches and staff and a fund that helps former UNC players. Nike also will make a one-time pay-ment of \$500,000 to Smith. Smith said he

intract would go to women's teams and academic support programs for athletes.



would donate the money to various chari-ties but would not say which ones. Swofford said money received from the

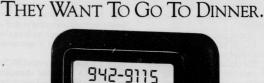
The 24 varsity teams will receive at least 1,908 shoes in the first season of the con-

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