

Man Gives Formal Evidence in Doctor Case

BY VIDA FOUBISTER
STAFF WRITER

A man who disputed charges against a UNC Hospitals pediatrics resident who pleaded no contest to a sexual assault charge last month made a formal statement to a Chapel Hill lawyer last week.

On Friday, the accuser's boyfriend, Darin Reynolds, filed an affidavit that might bring the case against former UNC doctor Jose Diaz back to court.

"Reynolds has come to town and has provided me with a sworn statement," said Syd Alexander, Diaz's attorney.

Reynolds claims his girlfriend, Stephanie West Brown of Asheboro, told him she had made up the charges against Diaz. He believes Brown most likely fabricated the

story for the money she stood to gain from a court settlement.

Alexander said he would decide late this week whether to file a motion to have the charges against Diaz dismissed. "We are going to look at Reynolds' sworn statement and evaluate it and decide where to go from here," Alexander said.

A decision had not been made before presstime Wednesday.

Brown has spoken to Assistant District Attorney James Woodall, who originally prosecuted the case. "I've talked to her," Woodall said. "She said she'd be glad to come back to court if need be."

Despite Reynolds' allegations, Woodall says, Brown still stands behind her charges and the district attorney's office is not considering dropping charges at this point.

Diaz was accused of entering Brown's hospital room, where she was recovering from a hysterectomy, fondling her breasts and trying to kiss her.

Janet Ward Black, Brown's attorney, would not return calls Tuesday.

Reynolds said his girlfriend had left their apartment in the middle of the night with all his possessions in a truck rented under false pretenses. The rental truck Brown used to remove Reynolds' possessions has now been returned. The truck was not returned to the proper rental agency, but was recovered in Kentucky.

Because the rental truck was returned and the bill was paid, the Randolph County sheriff's office is no longer involved with Brown's case.

"We've got no reason to be looking for

her," said Captain Richard Hughes of the Randolph County Sheriff's Department. "That's all we ever had on her."

Despite Reynolds' claims, Hughes said his department did not have a warrant out for Brown's arrest. The Asheboro Police Department is handling the boyfriend's dispute regarding his possessions, Hughes added. "I understand she was to return some property to him."

No one has been charged with the theft of \$50,000 worth of jewelry from Gordon's Jewelry Store in Asheboro, where Brown worked for three months.

"It is being investigated by the Asheboro Police Department," said Tim Callahan, manager of the store. Asheboro police Det. Mark Tolbert, who is investigating the case, could not be reached for comment.

UNC Earns High Honors on Prestigious 'Who's Who' List

BY CHRIS NICHOLS
SENIOR WRITER

Forget what you've heard about ratings slips. Forget what you've heard about our fair University's failure to purchase books. Forget about teachers' salary debates.

There's one demographic group that's perfectly happy with what's being done in Chapel Hill. UNC placed fifth on the top ten list when upper-echelon high school students named their preferred college.

In the "Who's Who Among American High School Students" annual college referral service, Harvard University claimed the top spot, dethroning Duke University, which had garnered top honors each of the last two years. Duke placed second, followed by Stanford University and the University of California at Los Angeles.

48 percent said quality of academics and reputation," Walters said.

Thirty-seven percent said cost, loans or scholarships were the most important considerations.

Walters said UNC's affordability relative to other institutions likely had factored into the large number naming the University as their first choice. "I think that's key in our situation here in Chapel Hill. I think the value of an education here at Carolina given the cost is remarkable."

Student respondents came from all across the country, even though UNC's out-of-state population forms a relatively small presence on campus.

"In-state, of course, we do extensive recruiting. Our recruitment out-of-state is modest. We do not travel a great deal."

Although athletic success offers UNC a great deal of name recognition and advertising, Walters said respondents didn't consider sports programs a high priority when choosing their college. "When students are asked to list the primary factors in their determining where to go to college, athletics ends up way down the list."

About 98 percent of "Who's Who" students go on to a college or university after graduating from high school.

Texas A & M University, the University of Michigan, the University of Texas, Yale University and Florida State University make up the second tier in the "Who's Who" rankings.

Youth Offenders Need Group Support

BY LYNN HOUSER
CITY EDITOR

The bullets that killed Kevin Nickens, the teen George Holman Jr. killed last June after Nickens repeatedly threatened his son, were the last straw in a legal system that couldn't help him.

"It's my personal opinion that the system is what failed," said a female juror who served on the Holman trial and asked to remain anonymous. "It failed the young man who was killed by not saving him ... and it failed GJ (Holman's son) when he was threatened."

But teens in trouble with the law have plenty of counseling resources available to them — the problem is getting the youths to follow through, says Donnie Phillips, intensive services counselor with Orange-Chatham Juvenile Services.

Phillips said it was important for parents to form ties with other parents. "It's important for parents to find someone to identify with and get support from a group, church, club or whatever and to form ties," he said. "Treatment to me is a whole lot more than sitting in a psychiatrist's office a couple of times a week."

Orange County court records show that Nickens, 19, had more than 40 charges against him, including drug charges, second-degree kidnapping and common-law robbery.

A 16-year-old enters the court system and is tried and sentenced as an adult.

When youths reach that age, the court no longer intervenes and provides counseling. Phillips said, "District Court is not social services."

But the court still provides information about counseling and rehabilitation services to anyone who asks. What is lacking is a person to coordinate these services, Phillips said. "There needs to be a youth coordinator, maybe in the county manager's office, to say 'This is what exists in Orange County for you.'"

A coordinator would also allow agencies to connect and find out what the county's needs are, Phillips said. "A lot of committees start and come up with good ideas and then kind of die."

North Carolina statutes state that once children turn 16, parents cannot tell them what to do, but parents are still legally and financially responsible for whatever the children do until they turn 18.

The juror said programs were needed to recognize when teens like Nickens were heading down a road toward disaster. "We've lost the rehabilitation part of punishment," she said.

Phillips said this area was actually rich in counseling resources.

"The problem I've observed is not finding information, it's following through," Phillips said. "Parents will take their child to one counseling session, and if they don't like it, they say, 'We've tried counseling.'"

"There are some inadequate people in some places who don't get the job done,

but by and large, there's a lot out there."

For children under 16 who commit misdemeanors, Phillips' office looks at the factual basis of the charges and whether the case should go to court. Roughly half these youths are referred to other resources for counseling instead of going to court.

For children who do go to court, a heavily used resource is Volunteers for Youth, which provides volunteers to work with teens who have been assigned community service as part of their probation.

"Our job is to get kids out of situations or change their behavior so they can live in the community," Phillips said.

Most problems occur when kids turn 16, said Sabrina Garcia, crisis counselor with the Chapel Hill Police Department.

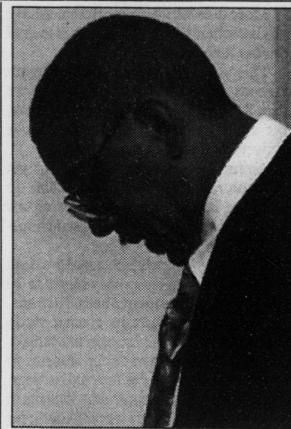
"After the magical age of 16, it's difficult to find resources," Garcia said.

Garcia said the Chapel Hill Police Department Crisis Unit helped direct families to available resources. "We respond to the initial crisis and assess the situation and then make referrals to appropriate agencies."

She agreed that it would be wonderful if the county had someone to keep track of all the available resources.

Phillips said the school system had guidance counselors, social workers and mental health workers available to help troubled teens.

Both Phillips and Garcia praised a parents' support group called Tough Love. "It's based on the philosophy to hold people accountable," Garcia said. "That's difficult to do because of the parent-child bond. Parents usually deny that their child has a problem until it's too late."



GEORGE HOLMAN will begin serving his sentence immediately.

When Holman pulled up beside Nickens, the teen leaned down to the passenger side window and threatened to kill his whole family, Holman said. Then Nickens, who was known to carry concealed weapons, stood up and reached under his shirt, Holman said. That's when Holman said he had begun firing. But no weapon was found on Nickens.

Holman said he had thrown his guns into University Lake on the way home.

At home, Holman kept repeating, "It wasn't supposed to go down like that. I just wanted to talk to him," testified Holman's wife, Delia. Holman then called the police and waited there until they came for him, she said.

SCHOLARS

Schopler said the NAS sought to remove politics from academia and ensure freedom of discussion. Current trends in higher education resemble trends toward conformity and suppression of dissenting opinion in Nazi Germany, the Stalinist Soviet Union and China during the Cultural Revolution, he added. "Universities decline when politics take over."

Although he supports increased hiring of women and minority faculty, Schopler said hiring standards had been compromised in recent years in the University's effort to diversify its faculty.

Provost Richard McCormick, who has worked on various minority faculty recruitment drives, said the NAS could contribute to discussion that was occurring on campus already.

"I'm surprised and kind of disappointed that some of our colleagues would agree that the standards for minorities are lower," McCormick said. "It doesn't exactly contribute to a warm welcome to our new colleagues."

Jane Brown, chairwoman of the Faculty Council, said multiculturalism didn't undermine the rigors of higher education, but enhanced them.

"We can't be a truly great university in

the '90s without many voices," she said.

National NAS President Stephen Balch said in an interview from New Jersey on Tuesday that the seven-year-old group saw itself as an academic reform organization.

"There are a great many things on campuses that should be debated and aren't," said Balch, a former political science professor.

Many of the group's 3,000 members are quickly stigmatized as racist or sexist before the issues they raise are even considered, Balch said. "But on the other hand, there has been a great deal of support."

Lisa Broome, associate dean of the UNC law school, said publicity about the NAS had spurred discussion within the school.

"It's a group of people entitled to form their group," she said.

Broome said the NAS' reputation had preceded the formation of the Chapel Hill branch because of the organization's high-profile role at neighboring Duke University. She said there had been no surprise among members of the law school faculty over the formation of the group.

"I think it's important that issues they're discussing be debated. The point of view represented by the group needs to be heard," Broome said.

"Everyone here respects Professor Haskell's right to be involved in a group that discusses these issues."

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