

WU

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title of human-rights activist," he said. "In China, I am a convicted criminal."

A Duke student criticized Wu, asking him why he thought he could break Chinese law when he was in China. Wu responded that although he knowingly broke Chinese law on his fact-gathering trip, his actions amounted to civil disobedience, because the Communist laws are unjust.

"Yes, I broke Chinese law, I admit it," Wu said. "I broke the law like Martin Luther King broke the law. Laws written by the government could be changed and should be changed."

Wu claimed that the outcome of his trial was arranged because it was only four hours long, and he didn't get to present his evidence.

He said he was told if he did not appear at the sentencing, he would be expelled from the country. Wu called the decision an easy one.

"I nod my head and keep a straight face," Wu said.

Wu said he was released because he is a U.S. citizen, but said he wasn't sure how much the controversy over Hillary Rodham Clinton attending the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing factored into his release.

"I do not know if there was a deal," Wu said. "One day, I am released and the next day, (Clinton) announces she will go."

Wu spoke out to his critics in his speech, especially those who said he was crazy to go back to China in the first place.

"I love life, but life without freedom is only half a life," Wu said. "I have a responsibility to help those who are living only a half-life."

Driven by that responsibility, Wu has made four trips to China since 1985, gathering information about the conditions of the Chinese prison labor camps.

"While I was held in China for 66 days, my family and friends were worried," he said. "They knew about the cruelties I had suffered from 1960 to 1979."

Wu and his researchers estimate that there are 1,000 prison labor camps in China and approximately 8 million people cur-



Wu, who was even-tempered and calm during his speech, gets angry and emotional during a question-and-answer session afterwards. Many members of the audience, most of whom were students, grilled Wu about his experience.

rently being held in the camps today.

This speech was one of several that Wu will make to thank the people who lobbied for his release. After that, his research will resume.

"My research is not only me," Wu said in response to a question about how he could conduct his work without going back to China. "I don't think that I can never go back to China."

The conditions of Chinese prison camps as no surprise to Wu but was different than the time he spent in Communist labor camps.

"Was I tortured? Not in a sense that I was not kicked or beaten. I was a special prisoner. But what if you were held against your will in a 9-by-12 room? What if you had no privacy? What if you were watched 24 hours a day?"

The daily routine involved twice-a-day questionings. "To a point, the interrogations made life more interesting, deciding how much to tell them," he said. "The most agonizing was the uncertainty, not knowing what charges the police had against me."

He was not allowed to talk to the guards,

but he told them stories about O.J. Simpson and Rodney King to show them how police brutality is not tolerated in the United States. He sang songs like "Love Me Tender" and read aloud from "The Old Man and the Sea," a book by Ernest Hemingway that describes an old man successfully battling the elements.

"Man is not made for defeat," Wu said. "Man can be destroyed, but he cannot be defeated."

Fitness Not an Issue for Female Citadel Applicant

BY JENNIFER BRYAN
STAFF WRITER

While many people believe the physical challenges of The Citadel contributed to Shannon Faulkner's inability to survive at the military institution, Nancy Mellette, The Citadel's newest female applicant, is not expected to have those problems.

Colonel Frederick J. Kennedy, a Citadel alumnus and president of Oak Ridge Military Academy, where Mellette is currently in her senior year, says Mellette is in prime physical condition. "She not only meets the qualifications, she far exceeds them. She is the type of young lady I'd like to see go (to The Citadel)," he said. "The only concern I have is the push-ups."

She is currently training with her school's athletic department to prepare for the rigors of The Citadel.

According to Mellette's attorney, Melissa Burnette, Mellette's application has been sent to The Citadel. College officials say that it will initially be rejected by the college because Mellette is a woman.

Whether Mellette will be considered for admission depends on the resolution of the legal battle she is now initiating. A motion to intervene in the Faulkner v. The Citadel case has been filed by Burnette and, if successful, it will put Mellette's name on the record as another plaintiff in the case or as a substitute plaintiff for Faulkner.

The hearing on the motion is scheduled for Sept. 13. The motion to classify the case as a class-action lawsuit has been heard and argued, but not yet decided.

"We hope it (the case) will be decided in time for Nancy to enter her freshman year in the fall of 1996," Burnette said. "The fight now is over whether the alternative

program at Converse will be an acceptable substitute for the program at The Citadel."

Mellette held a press conference Sept. 5. The Associated Press quoted Mellette as saying, "Converse doesn't offer electrical engineering courses, and I don't believe that the military instruction they have at Converse would be equal to The Citadel."

Burnette feels the legal precedent set by this case is important. "It was certainly a very successful case. We just need to finish it. She (Faulkner) won. The decision is made. Faulkner now passes the baton on to Mellette like in a relay race," she said.

David Abrams of the public relations office at The Citadel said: "The only reason why they are filing this motion is to collect legal fees. We're talking about \$4 million in legal costs here. They will collect about 30 percent of that."

Another issue that has concerned many people is Mellette's physical condition, considering the controversy over whether Faulkner met The Citadel's physical requirements.

According to Gary Blackburn, a representative from the Office of Public Affairs at Oak Ridge Military Academy, Mellette is in excellent shape physically. Mellette has received military training at Oak Ridge through the JROTC program. "She is phenomenal. She's very tiny, but she's one tough little lady," Blackburn said. "I don't think there is any question that she will be able to meet the physical standards required of the males. If she does get in, we're sure she'll succeed."

"We ought to have the option if people want to receive a single-gender education," Kennedy said. "If it is ruled that single-gender education is no longer an option, the people who lose out are the women."

Congress Considers Cuts in Funding For Death Row Defense Organization

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Defense attorney David Bruck leaned forward and said softly, "I'll see you. Take care, man." Strapped to the prison gurney, condemned killer Sylvester Adams began to call out and sing to Jesus.

Poison then flowed into the veins of the mentally retarded black man, ending a 16-year struggle to prevent his Aug. 18 execution.

The battle's last five weeks were fought by Bruck and a staff of federally funded lawyers. From a crowded Columbia office, they frantically tried to overturn Adams' sentence for strangling a teenage neighbor in 1979.

Those lawyers—South Carolina's Post Conviction Defender Organization—are under attack from death penalty support-

ers. Frustrated at long delays in carrying out executions, they are targeting 20 such defender groups nationwide.

Congress is listening. The House has voted to cut all \$20 million in federal money for the groups, which represent death row inmates or assist appointed lawyers with final appeals.

The Senate has not voted, but even supporters of the defender groups say politicians of both parties are against them.

The average wait between conviction and execution is a little less than eight years, according to a Justice Department study. Prosecutors partly blame the centers, calling them "philosophical think tanks" trying only to stall executions.

"The leading cause of death on death row is natural causes. ... We've got 3,000 people on death row. We are adding 250

people a year, and we're only executing 30," says S.C. Attorney General Charlie Condon. He sent 11 men to death row when he was a Charleston prosecutor. None has been executed.

But supporters of the defender groups—including some judges, civil rights organizations and the American Bar Association—say appeals may actually take longer and cost more without them.

Supporters also say weaker attorneys will be easy prey for prosecutors intent on capital punishment.

The lawyers argued unsuccessfully that jurors never learned of Adams' mental retardation but did hear graphic testimony of how Adams, in a bungled 1979 robbery-turned-kidnapping, wrapped a tablecloth around 16-year-old Bryan Chambers' neck and twisted it until he died.

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