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Feminist Discusses Race, Gender



bell hooks speaks at Memorial Hall on Wednesday. Among other issues, hooks addressed about the need for a change in the black feminist movement.

■ Nationally known author bell hooks spoke to a packed house in Memorial Hall.

BY EMMA FLACK
STAFF WRITER

A full house of anxious fans awaited the second annual Sonja H. Stone Memorial Lecture in Memorial Hall on Wednesday night. The guest lecturer this year was renowned author Gloria Watkins, better known as bell hooks.

hooks' lecture was titled "Racism and Sexism: Healing the Wound." In her lecture, she stressed the importance of the struggle for black determination and revolutionary feminism.

hooks said the issues of gender and race were interwoven and could not be separated.

"Feminism and sexism are topics that must occur simultaneously," she said.

The word feminism has a dual meaning, hooks said. White power feminism is feminism that has been used by opportunistic white women to their advantage and not to the advantage of any other women. For this reason and because of the negative connotations often associated with feminism, black women have been reluctant to call themselves feminists.

"Feminism became a stick with which white women could beat black women with," she said.

hooks said white power feminism had tried to quiet blacks and elude their beliefs.

She said the mass media focused on white power feminism and had said in her work that the power of white feminist thinking should be challenged.

Revolutionary feminism refers to a type of feminism that all types of races take part in, regardless of racial barriers. hooks stressed in her lecture that revolutionary feminist thinkers must challenge white power feminist thinkers.

hooks said black feminists have often thought of themselves as race traitors. She said feminism requires women to look to black self-determination.

"Feminism is so crucial to black self-determination," hooks said. "A lot of black women have empowered themselves through the idea of feminism."

hooks said many black men are angry at the idea of feminism because they feel it is denying them opportunities. She also said many black men do not read and write, and therefore they do not understand the capitalist system of this country.

"We have so little understanding of how our system works," hooks said. Patriarchy is not as important in the black community as in the white community, hooks said. She said there seemed to be only two options for black men: to work and provide or to be unemployed and on the street.

hooks also spoke on the pathology of white supremacy, in which some whites had not experienced a fearful situation with blacks but were still afraid of them. She also mentioned that in the civil rights movement many whites gave up their lives in a racial struggle to help blacks but were forgotten.

Council Mulls Revised Open-Container Law

BY HILARY SPARROW
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council inched closer to changing an open-container violation from a misdemeanor to an infraction Monday night.

Council members voted unanimously to submit a resolution to the League of Municipalities requesting a modification of the state law, which currently states the penalty for carrying an open container of alcohol on public property must result in a misdemeanor, except in certain limited cases.

The vote came in response to a Sept. 25 petition submitted to the council by council member Mark Chilton.

"It seems to me that (the council) may have gone too far in making possession of an open container into a misdemeanor," Chilton stated in the petition.

Chilton said he thought the town needed to keep the law but impose lesser penalties.

"I haven't suggested at all that we should go back to making this legal, but instead

I'm just suggesting that it be a different type of crime," Chilton said.

Misdemeanors, criminal offenses less serious than felonies, leave a person with a criminal record upon conviction. Infractions are noncriminal violations punishable by a monetary fine.

Several UNC students have been cited under the ordinance and are hoping the Town Council will consider changing the penalty. UNC freshman James Childers also submitted a letter to council Oct. 24 that questioned the ordinance.

"There does not appear to be any consistency or equal treatment under this ordinance, as the Chapel Hill Police Department and University Police do not seem to want to work together," Childers stated in the letter.

But others disagreed with the council's decision to seek the change in penalties.

"I would like to point to our experience under this law and urge you to consider leaving it a misdemeanor," Town Manager Cal Horton said.

Two members of the Chapel Hill Police Department also asked the council to leave the penalty a misdemeanor and spoke in favor of the ordinance.

"We have less fights, we seem to have less litter and just less problems in general," Chapel Hill Police Sergeant Harold Horne said. He said the ordinance has been a big help to the town since being enacted.



Council member MARK CHILTON asked the Town Council to change the open-container law.

IFC Election Raises Questions About Fraternity Governance

BY JAMES LEWIS
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Campus leaders expressed disbelief after the interfraternity Council on Tuesday elected a Phi Gamma Delta rush co-chairman as an officer for the 1995-96 school year.

Council members elected George Worrell, one of three rush co-chairmen who signed a lewd memo sent to Phi Gamma Delta's pledges earlier this fall. The memo was an itinerary of rush week events that invited members to take advantage of "sorority pledges as they stumble around the dance floor in a drunken stupor bordering on the brink of alcohol poisoning." Worrell, David Stallings and Ben Woodruff signed the undated letter.

After the election, Worrell said that he thought his fraternity had been punished enough and that his election as IFC treasurer was an effort to move beyond the scandal. "I think being voted in as IFC treasurer is a step forward to rectify what has been done wrong and to renew our good relations with fellow fraternities," he said. "I'm not a rapist, as I have been called. I'm a good treasurer. The IFC will greatly benefit from my services."

Representatives of 14 of the IFC's 23 fraternities were represented at the election in the Sigma Nu house. Will Warrick, last year's IFC president, who would not disclose the vote breakdown, indicated that it was a close vote. He said all fraternities had been notified of the election two weeks ago and had been reminded of the upcoming elections.

Student Body President Calvin Cunningham said he was disappointed that the IFC had elected one of the rush co-chairmen to the post in light of the scandal. "I respect the right of IFC to elect who they want, but this destroys their credibility as a governing organization of the fraternity system," he said.

Cunningham said that he had worked to strengthen the IFC's place and credibility within the fraternity structure, but that he felt Worrell's election had eroded that work. "We sought to legitimize IFC's governing position, which is now undermined by this individual's election."

Warrick said he thought council representatives voted for Worrell because he was the strongest candidate for the position. "It was one of those things where he was voted treasurer because he was the better of the two," Warrick said.

He said he thought Worrell's election to the post could hurt the IFC's credibility in the future. "I think that throughout this the publicity definitely will hurt," he said.

Warrick, however, also said he thought the position would give Worrell the opportunity to work toward solving the problems of misogyny and alcohol abuse shown in the memo.

"Part of his reason for doing this — and people told him not to run — was also to help make a change that was obviously not just a Phi Gam problem or a fraternity problem, but more of a male problem (within society)," he said. "Maybe he's just trying to reconcile. That will be up to him."

POWER, WIN Sponsoring Speakout Today

BY BRONWEN CLARK
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Following a week of activities designed to raise awareness about rape and sexual harassment and in the midst of campus outrage regarding a lewd Phi Gamma Delta rush memo, the Women's Issues Network and People Organized for Women's Empowerment and Rights will sponsor a speakout to address the issue of sexism on campus.

"The forum is a tool to discuss what sexism is, how it affects our community and how we can begin dismantling it," said Katie Hultquist, co-chairwoman of WIN.

Hultquist said the speakout, which will take place at 3 p.m. today in 100 Hamilton Hall, would not be a panel discussion but would be an open forum for members of the campus community to express their opinions.

"The speakout is a way to improve communication surrounding the issues of violence against women and sexism on campus," she said.

The forum had two goals, Hultquist said. First, it was designed to repeat the lessons learned during Rape Awareness Week.

Second, Hultquist said the organizers wanted to create and continue a dialogue about the treatment of women and the larger implications for our campus and society.

Adrienne Lockie, the other co-

See SPEAKOUT, Page 2

Black men gathered in Washington, D.C., in October for the Million Man March. The goal of the day-long rally was to encourage black men to take a more active role in the community and greater responsibility for their families. Since the march, there has been a surge in activism throughout the black community.

DTH/ERIK PEREL



March Sparks Activism

The BCC Protests



TOP: The Rev. Jesse Jackson and former Chancellor Paul Hardin address students after a tense meeting about the black cultural center the morning of April 15, 1993.

MIDDLE: Students arrested for taking over the chancellor's office later that day celebrate after being released from the Orange County Jail.

BOTTOM: About 70 student protesters gathered in Hardin's office before police cleared it, arresting 16 students and one town resident.

DTH FILE PHOTOS

One month after the Million Man March, black student leaders attribute organizational growth and increased participation to a heightened sense of understanding and activism.

BY ROBYN TOMLIN HACKLEY
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The crowd chanted, "Long live the spirit of the Million Man March," and a crisp breeze wafted through the air that day, carrying on its back voices calling for a better day in the black community. Now that a month has passed, though, is that spirit still alive?

Leaders of several campus black activist groups said the spirit generated by the march was in fact alive and well in UNC's black community. Some contend that a correlation can be made between the march and an upswing in student participation in several groups and volunteer activities.

UNC's Black Student Movement President Ladell Robbins said that since the Oct. 16 rally in Washington, D.C., which had an estimated attendance of between 650,000 and 1.1 million people, there had been an increase in the number of black men attending the BSM's meetings and volunteering to work on service projects with the group.

"We've had a lot more males become active in the BSM," Robbins said. "Prior to the march, the number of men at meetings was usually between two and three. Now it's been fluctuating between 10 and 13 overall at the meetings."

Robbins said there also had been an increase in the number of men volunteering to work with the group's "Be A Somebody" program. "We pair up upperclass BSM members with underclassmen," Carson said. This is done to help new students make a successful transition

into college life.

Ellis Carson, president of the campus chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said, "The march was kind of like a reminder."

"There has definitely been an increased awareness, and along with that increase, there has been more discussion of the philosophies that have always been there, but that have recently been brought back to the forefront," Carson said.

"I guess the thing that would best reflect an increase in the participation is the increased number of volunteers in our mentoring program," he said.

The NAACP's mentoring program will soon kick off at Chapel Hill High School. At this point, about 35 NAACP members have volunteered to participate in the program. Volunteers will spend about two hours a week with a black CHHS sophomore, working with them in tutorial sessions and workshops, helping them with homework and being a role model.

Carson said approximately four times the number of black men had volunteered for the mentoring program since the march. "We want to show African-American 10th graders what they need to do to get to college," he said.

Carson said the campus chapter of the NAACP currently has a membership of about 200 students. He added that on the national level, the NAACP, the National Urban League and other black activist groups were flooded

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INSIDE this issue

Hot or Not? This week Diversions takes a look back at this year's high and low points at the box office.
Diversions, Page 5



Cave Parking: The Rosemary Street parking deck provides a prehistoric feel to commuters with its colorful cave murals.
City News, Page 3

Weather

TODAY: Mostly sunny; high upper 40s.
FRIDAY: Mostly sunny; high 40s

Python Problem: Three UNC students found an uninvited resident in their apartment.
Feature News, Page 3

Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.

Franklin P. Jones