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Rush Memo, Media Spark Student Anger During Speakout

Phi Gamma Delta fraternity issued a letter of apology Thursday night.

BY MOLLY FELMET
STAFF WRITER

The University must increase awareness of sexism and provide a mechanism for constructive change in the wake of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity memo controversy, students said at a speakout Thursday afternoon.

About 60 men and women attended the two-hour forum in Hamilton Hall. No student who spoke identified themselves as a member of Phi Gamma Delta. However, the fraternity issued a former letter of apology to the University community later Thursday evening.

"It freaks me out as a woman on campus to think men walking around me have written stuff like this," said Student Body Vice President Amy Swan.

Swan said she did not approve of the way Greek community had handled the memo before it was distributed at the "Take Back the Night" March last week. She said the publicity the memo had received was beneficial because it made people aware of the problem of sexism.

The memo encouraged pledges to take advantage of "sorority pledges as they stumble around the dance floor bordering on the brink of alcohol poisoning."

The fraternity, in its letter of apology, stated that it wished to make amends for the lewd memo. "We realize that the educational programs and community service projects that we plan to undertake ... will not in any way cleanse our reputation or appease the most offended of our detractors," the letter stated. "We do hope to

prove that Phi Gamma Delta is not founded on the principles of sexism, immorality and drunkenness, as has been alleged."

At Thursday's speakout, members of Pi Beta Phi sorority addressed media and campus implications that the sorority condoned the letter's message. Ginny Winfield, a member of the sorority, said she thought media coverage had implied that Pi Beta Phi condoned the fraternity's letter because the sorority had not spoken publicly against it.

Winfield said she thought the letter represented sexual immaturity. "I did not see it as an incitement to rape," she said. "But maybe that is naive on my part."

Winfield said that divisiveness among women on campus did not solve anything and that picketing and protesting were not the most effective ways to fight sexism.

Paola Ribadeneira, who was pledging Pi Beta Phi when the letter was written, said she resented media coverage misrepresenting the sorority's silence. "You can't take (media comments) and stereotype all of us," she said. "Some people took it as a joke, some people were outraged."

Sean Behr, a junior from Staten Island, N.Y., said as a non-Greek male student, he understood the reaction from students outside the Greek community. "The average student is wondering was there any retribution besides just a little combination of things," he said. "People are thinking, I can write things like that, and if there's a treasurer job open maybe I'll get it."

Many speakers said the focus of the debate should be on the deeper campus problems of which the letter is a symptom. Proposed solutions to the problem of sexism on campus were increasing educational programs, encouraging the chancellor to re-examine the campus climate for women and increasing communication among groups on campus.

Coalition Protests Job Privatization

BY DAVE SNELL
STAFF WRITER

Members of the newly formed Coalition for Economic Justice urged University administrators to lobby the General Assembly against privatization of housekeeping jobs at a press conference Thursday on the steps of Lenoir Dining Hall.

Although the major argument for privatization is saving money, coalition members said privatization would not accomplish that goal and would hurt University employees.

"Twenty-five years ago, students stood here to support the cafeteria workers at UNC," said coalition member Kim Diehl. "Today, the fight is to insist the University take a stand for the housekeepers."

Holding signs proclaiming "No Contracting Out" and "Living Wages for Housekeepers," coalition members said they opposed privatization.

Since marching to UNC-system President C.D. Spangler's house in protest Oct. 15, coalition members have sent letters to both Spangler and Chancellor Michael Hooker requesting that they lobby the legislature to vote against privatization.

While the coalition commended Hooker for his commitment to campus employees, Diehl said the group was concerned that the UNC system was considering privatization.

Under the privatization plan, the housekeepers would lose union rights and advancement opportunities, she said.

Coalition members said privatization was national trend. They drew a parallel between the privatization of food services at UNC in 1969, and the possibility of privatization of housekeeper services.

"This is not an isolated incident. This is happening all across the country," said Kathy Leger, a representative from the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute.

"But workers are organizing, workers are standing up and workers are taking back the power. Solidarity does let us win."

Using Marriott Corporation which provides the University's food services as an example, coalition member Robin Ellis said contracting services could make the University dependent on the private sector.

"Since food service jobs were contracted out, the University has become dependent on Marriott," she said.

The coalition questioned the legislature's assumption that contracting out jobs to private corporations would save money.

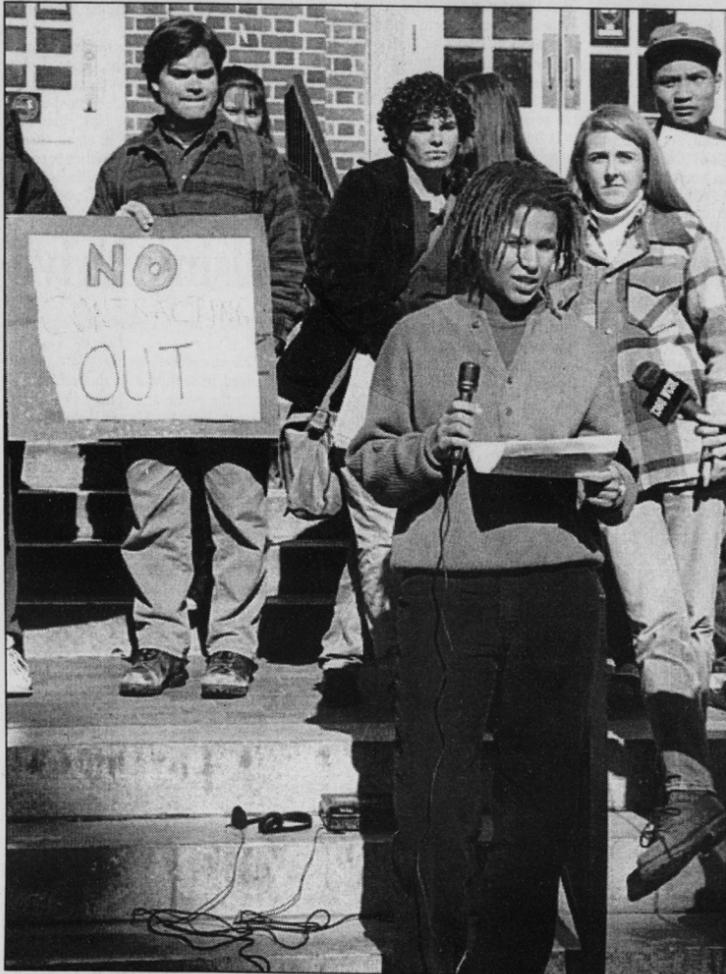
"How much can the University save by allowing private corporations take over jobs?" Diehl said.

"How much can it save by continuing with oppression (of workers)?"

UNC students and campus employees formed the coalition earlier this fall in response to a state legislature study which examined privatizing various services in the UNC system.

The coalition urged students and employees to show their support by writing letters to UNC system officials and rallying behind the housekeepers and Marriott workers, Leger said.

"Hopefully students will lobby against privatization."



Junior Kim Diehl from Longwood, Fla., speaks at a rally on the steps of Lenoir Dining Hall Thursday. The rally was held to protest the possible privatization of housekeeping jobs.

DTH/CANDI LANG

Another Title Try

After Losing in Strokes for Two Straight Years, Will UNC Win the Big One?

BY ROBBIE PICKERAL
SPORTS EDITOR

For the North Carolina field hockey team, the 1995 season has balanced on overcoming adversity.

To reach its undefeated record and No. 1 ranking, UNC has dealt with injuries to key players, an extremely short bench and a league snubbing when the ACC coaches neglected to vote freshman Nancy Pelligreen the ACC Rookie of the Year.

But when the Tar Heels travel to Wake Forest this weekend for the field hockey final four, it will face its toughest adversity of the year. After losing the last two NCAA championship games in overtime strokes, the pressure is on for the Tar Heels to finally be crowned NCAA champs.

"We're not going to focus on last year," said UNC coach Karen Shelton. "Some of the girls may be able to draw on last year's loss, but as a team, this is our first Final 4."

As a unit, yes. But not as a team, because Saturday's game will mark the seventh-straight final four in which UNC has participated. In 1989, the Tar Heels won the NCAA championship, but since then they have fallen five times in the finals and once in the semis.

"I may carry some of the burden (of winning), but this is a

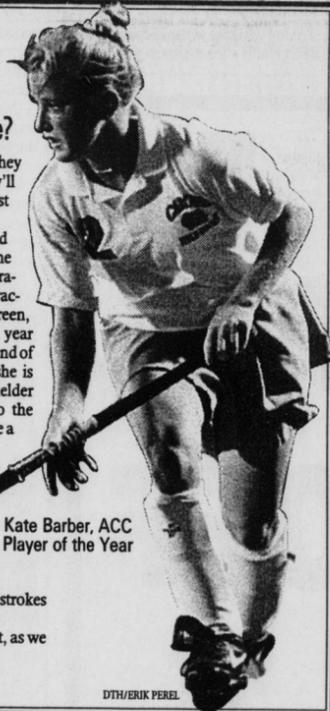
new team," Shelton said. "What worries me is that they want to win so badly. I'm worried that if we do lose, they'll view themselves as failures, even though this is the best record a Tar Heel team has ever had."

The majority of the burden will fall on a nicked offense. Kate Barber, the team's leading scorer and the ACC Player of the Year, re-aggravated an old shoulder injury in practice this week but will start. Pelligreen, who played with a bum knee all year before pulling a leg muscle at the end of the season, said last week that she is feeling much better. And midfielder Joy Driscoll, who was voted to the ACC all-tournament team despite a broken finger, is adjusting to the cast on her left hand.

In goal, sophomore Jana Withrow faced her first penalty stroke of the season in the ACC final against Maryland. She missed it, but said she will be prepared if strokes arise for the third-straight year in the NCAAAs.

"I do think that no one's prepared better, going into it, as we

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Kate Barber, ACC Player of the Year

DTH/ERIK PEREL

Family Begins Petition for Guilty but Insane Verdict

BY LAURA GODWIN
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

In the wake of the not guilty by reason of insanity verdict announced in the Wendell Williamson double-murder case Nov. 7, family members of one of the victims have decided to take action in an effort to change the law.

Members of the family of Ralph Walker Jr., the local restaurant manager who was gunned down on his front porch by Williamson during the Jan. 26 shooting spree on Henderson Street, are starting a petition drive in the hope that state lawmakers will consider implementing a guilty but mentally ill verdict for similar cases in the future.

Iris Walker, Walker's sister, said she thought the ramifications of the guilty but insane verdict were too important to be overlooked, and she said she hoped that these petitions, if nothing else, would shed light on the issue. "What else can they (the petition signers) do but at least take another look," she said.

The family will be at the Franklin Street post office and the Wal-Marts in Durham

and Roxboro Saturday to gather signatures. Walker said the family hoped to be able to make a guilty but insane verdict legal. Walker said that she was not prepared for the jury's verdict, and that she was still trying to accept the fact that Williamson was found not guilty by reason of insanity. "I'm still trying to regain my composure," she said. "There was no way to put it at peace. Justice can't be done for what happened."

Walker said the verdict had made it hard for her family to begin the healing process. "It's going to be a very slow process," she said. Walker also said the family's motivation behind the drive was to "save someone else from this torment."

Any size crowd and number of signatures would be a good start, Walker said. "If it is not but two people, that's two I didn't have before," she said. "If you don't try there is no hope for change."

Walker said she and her family hoped to take the petition drive to other counties and eventually follow it to the N.C. General Assembly. "I'm going to do what I can do," she said. "It's not going to be an obsession; it's going to be a continuance."

MAKING A MARK

Chapel Hill lawyer Mark Dorosin approaches civil rights cases with passion in order to bring justice to those who have been denied it, making him a

Champion OF THE Underdog

BY MARSHALL BENBOW
STAFF WRITER

In an era when many lawyers are seen as money-grubbing and greedy individuals, Chapel Hill attorney Mark Dorosin sets himself apart. Dorosin seeks cases not for their monetary value but for their potential to benefit the client and the community, and his desire to serve causes him to perform his job with passion.

Dorosin said he was involved in civil law because he wanted to combat the injustice he saw in the legal system.

"There's this huge gap between the reality of our system and the rhetoric — the promise — of that, and I'm trying to bridge that gap and hopefully bring more justice to the people who have been denied it for so long," he said.

Dorosin, who graduated from UNC law school in May of 1994, first became interested in law as an undergraduate at Duke University. But he had friends who went to law school and got corrupted, he said.

"I had this vision of law school that the whole system was set up

to get people involved with corporate law, and that there would be no interest in getting people into civil law, or very little," Dorosin said.

He decided to become a teacher in order to have more involvement in the community. After graduation he earned his master's degree in history from UNC-Greensboro. He then taught in the Asheboro school system for a year. Dorosin was not asked back after that year, so he worked in a video store before deciding to go to law school.

While in his second year of law school at UNC, he decided he wanted to be a civil rights lawyer. His wife suggested he contact Alan McSurely, a local attorney who handled Keith Edwards' case against the University. Dorosin wrote McSurely and soon began

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Mark Dorosin says he practices law to combat injustices in the legal system. Dorosin says he and Alan McSurely, his partner in the firm, seek to help the community and the clients they represent.

DTH/JOHN WHITE

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
Fred Allen