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Hammond accused by 6 drama students

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS
Six students have officially accused a University drama professor of abusive and harassing behavior, extending an investigation by officials.

The graduate students had accused professor David Hammond anonymously, opening a University investigation two months ago, headed by former faculty chairman Jim Peacock.

As the University started to wrap up its investigation two weeks ago, the students went on record with their complaints and gave their names.

School policy states that the University cannot punish someone accused anonymously of sexual harassment.

The students said their official complaint two weeks ago included the same allegations contained in a letter in January from sexual harassment officer Judith Scott to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Chapel Hill Herald obtained a copy of the letter.

Among other complaints, the students said Hammond:

- asked which of them take showers

with their partners before having sex.
discussed in graphic terms male genitals and sexual functioning.

cursed at students, mocking and ridiculing them, calling them names like "selfish pig," and "mushmouth."

often substituted for student actors in scenes that involve sexual intimacy, including kissing. Students said they found his actions "extremely uncomfortable as well as unnecessary and inappropriate," according to Scott's letter.

"We're never going to have him for class again, but we have to stop his behavior against other people," said one of the students who came forward. "They think that once my class is gone, they can hush it up and go back to the status quo. We're dead set against that."

Scott said on Sunday that she did not release the letter to any media and that only the accusers, Hammond or investigators could have gotten any confidential correspondence from her office.

Provost Richard Richardson said the investigation would continue. "There will be continued discussions throughout the week," he said.

Hammond is on leave from the department. Dramatic Arts Department Chairwoman Milly Barranger did not return phone calls.

Hammond is an internationally known director and acting teacher who has been a major selling point for the University's Professional Actor Training Program, a repertory program that

SEE DRAMA, PAGE 7



Provost RICHARD RICHARDSON said a meeting is scheduled for Monday to discuss the allegations.

Congress members face expulsion for absences

BY JESSICA GALAZKA
STAFF WRITER

Three Student Congress members, two of whom represent graduate students, face dismissal from their elected positions because of chronic absences.

Student Congress will vote tonight to expel Reps. Mike Doherty, Dist. 9; Chris Herold, Dist. 7; and Mark Paschall, Dist. 23, from congress for not attending meetings.

"They've never shown up at all," said Kristin Sasser, speaker pro tem. "For people who flat-out don't show up, it's easy."

Student Congress switched the meetings from Wednesday night to Monday night to accommodate live telecasts of the meetings. The new meeting time conflicted with commitments Doherty had as a

dental school student.

"It's just not possible to go," he said. Speaker James Hoffman said he wanted to make sure meetings could be televised.

"It was unfortunate that had to happen," he said. "I thought us being televised was more important."

Doherty said that as a graduate student he had a tighter schedule than those of other students.

"In the past (graduate students) haven't had anyone, and when they finally do, they can't go," he said.

Title II of the Student Code dictates which rules Student Congress follows. Sasser said former speaker James Kilbourne revised the code last year to make it easier to eliminate tardy and absent members.

The Student Code states any Congress member who misses three full Congress meetings or three committee meetings should be expelled from Student Congress.

Absences are a problem for Student Congress because too many make it impossible to reach the number needed for quorum, majority plus one. Now

SEE CONGRESS, PAGE 7



Speaker of Student Congress JAMES HOFFMAN said not all students could be present at the televised meetings.

A promise to KEEP

WASHINGTON —

College students are famous for road trips, but it's not often that you find four UNC students sprawled on the floor of a Metro Station in suburban

Washington, D.C., on a Saturday morning. However, for those students, Saturday wasn't an average Saturday morning.

The four UNC sophomores left Chapel Hill at 1:30 a.m. to make the approximately 260-mile journey to Washington in order to attend the Promise Keepers first national assembly, Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly.

"This is the first thing I've done with Promise Keepers," said Ryan Markham, from Lakeland, Fla. Three of his friends rode with him: Mark Sanders from Richlands, Rob Webster from Charlotte, and Drew Carter from Winston-Salem.

"I heard about it on the radio this summer at work and thought it sounded really interesting," Markham said while waiting for the train that would take him and his friends from the suburban metro station into the center of the city.

"I thought it was unique that it was only men," he said.

"It's one of the only opportunities to address concerns unique to Christian men."

On the crowded train the four students sat quietly, waiting anxiously for their stop and passing a portable radio back and forth to listen to pre-event coverage.

Once in the city, they followed the crowds of men walking toward the Mall.

The crowd moved peacefully but by no means silently. As the crowd became denser, the singing grew louder.

Just outside the Metro station, a lone trumpeter played Amazing Grace, which was taken up by the crowd as it walked toward the Mall. Voices joined in throughout the walk until, at the center, hundreds of thousands of men sang along, assisted by 30-foot T.V. screens and stacks of speakers blaring organ music.

The UNC students walked nearly the length of the Mall before they could find a place to sit and watch the event's speakers on a T.V. screen.

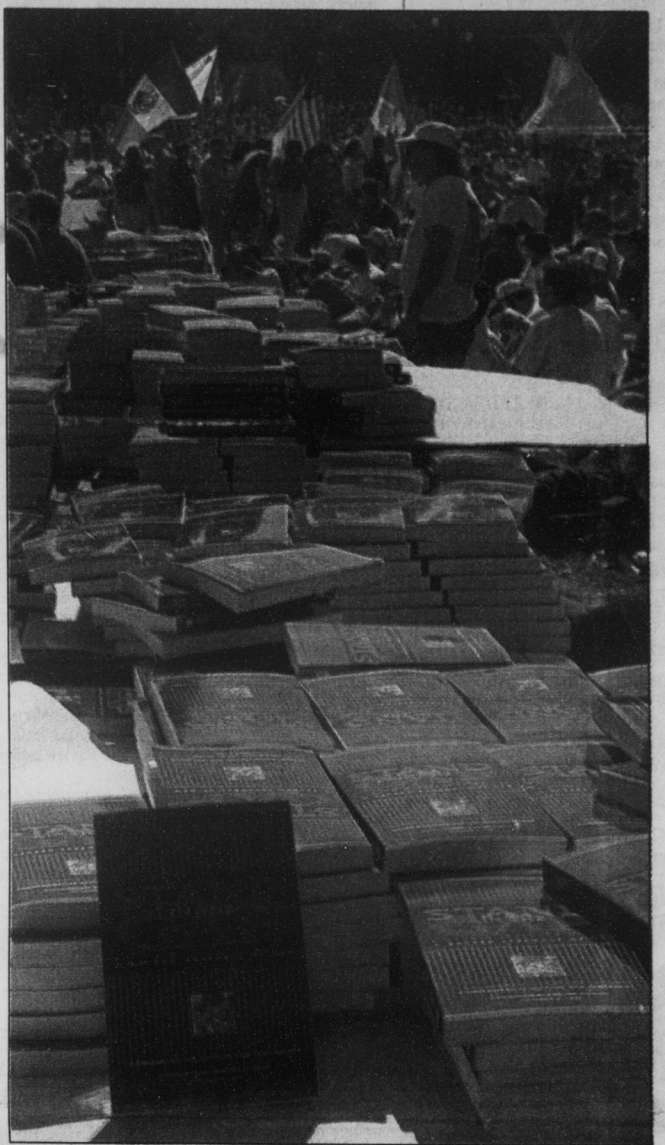
"I wanted to come to see integration within the body of Christ," Carter said, pleased by the diversity he noticed around him. "I'm pretty sick of churches being all white or all black."

Carter said he thought the assembly formed an opportunity for all men to come together for a common purpose.

"I wanted to see everybody come together for God."

The number of participants really impressed him, said Carter, who estimated that at least 50 UNC stu-

SEE PROMISE KEEPERS, PAGE 7

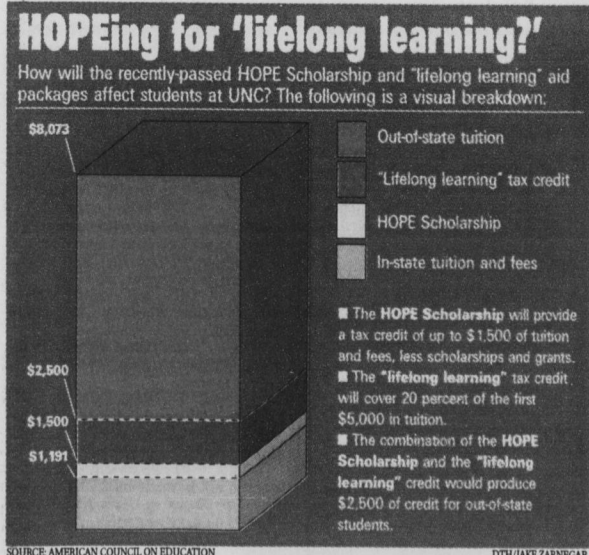


Commemorative Stand in the Gap Bibles were available, free of charge, during Saturday's Promise Keepers' national convention.



Hundreds of thousands of Promise Keepers descended upon Washington, D.C., for Stand in the Gap, an event in which Christian men reaffirmed their belief in Christianity.

Tax breaks for families of college students to be part of U.S. financial aid



Other parts of the new package combine to form \$40 billion in federal aid.

BY MATT DEES
STAFF WRITER

Federal legislators set affordable higher education as a top priority this summer with a new law offering tax cuts for families of college students.

Parents with children enrolled in any form of higher schooling receive a tax credit, starting in January, of up to \$1,500 annually for the first two years.

The credit, known as the HOPE Scholarship, is one of many provisions that provide \$40 billion in education tax breaks over the next five years.

The tax breaks are the result of the Taxpayer Relief Act, an unprecedented

bipartisan effort to use tax policies to encourage higher education.

Jacqueline King, director of Federal Policy Analysis for the American Council on Education, called the TRA "a creative way for families, especially middle and lower class families, to pay for higher education."

Along with the HOPE Scholarships, the plan also offers a tax credit for upperclassmen and graduate students, an expansion of prepaid tuition plans in states that offer them to include room and board costs and a deduction on the interest of student loans.

U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., played a key role in ensuring the inclusion of the educational tax provisions in the final budget agreement. Price lobbied for 10 years in Congress for the passage of his own education bill, the "Price Education Affordability Act." His bill included interest deductions on student loans and allowed families to make withdrawals from their Individual Retirement Accounts for education purposes without penalty.

"The ultimate goal of these programs

is to reach folks who would be unable to afford college any other way," said Kym Spell, a spokeswoman for David Price. "(The bill) is geared toward students who don't have the resources to go to college."

Price also fought and eliminated a proposal to raise taxes on graduate students, which could have cost Triangle area graduate students up to \$3,000 more each year.

In the past, lower-income students relied on student aid programs, such as Pell Grants, to finance their higher education. Although the agreement limits overall educational spending, these programs appear to be safe from additional tax cuts.

In fact, the Pell Grant program saw a \$300 increase to \$3,000 annually, the largest one-year increase in the program's history. Furthermore, the tax cuts only aid those whose adjusted gross incomes fall under \$40,000 for single taxpayers and under \$80,000 for joint returns, which helps ensure that the

SEE FINANCIAL AID, PAGE 7

INSIDE Monday

Look into the White House



Students at UNC speak out about how Bill Clinton's presidency has affected the world—and their own lives.
Page 15

5 TIME'S RUNNING OUT!
5 days left to register to vote

Today's weather

Sunny;
mid 80s
Tuesday: Sunny;
mid 80s

Hatreds are the cinders of affection.

Sir Walter Raleigh