

Torbush Speaks Out On Campus Safety

During a rally for the White Ribbon Campaign, the coach said alcohol was often a catalyst for sexual assault.

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

UNC football coach Carl Torbush fought for a victory off the field Wednesday as he rallied support for the prevention of violence against women.

Torbush spoke in the Pit as part of the second annual White Ribbon Campaign, a week of events aimed at highlighting the efforts of men working to end sexual assault against women.

Almost 50 men clad in event T-shirts and white ribbons lined the Pit as Torbush called for men to help women feel safer on campus.

Just before he stepped to the podium, Torbush circulated among the campaign members, introducing himself to each of them.

"I think it is really important that all of you, especially females, never have to walk around in fear," he said.

Torbush also warned students against the overconsumption of alcohol, which he said was often a catalyst for men to committing sexual assault.

The White Ribbon Campaign is an international event that began in Canada as a remembrance of a 1989

Montreal massacre in which an armed man killed 14 women.

Volunteers have spent the week distributing white ribbons and information about sexual violence against women and circulating pledge sheets to garner support for the cause.

Members said they planned to display the sheets of the men's signatures in a visible location after the week ended. The group gathered about 1,700 signatures last year.

During the noon rally, senior Will Morris said men had a tendency to stay silent when other men committed violent acts.

"Men needed a space to speak out, and now we have that space," he said.

Freshman Alistair Cooper said it was crucial that more men take the initiative to fight against sexual assault through open dialogue.

"Men must be able to actively and openly discuss this problem for it to be eradicated," Cooper said.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



UNC football coach Carl Torbush said no one, especially women, should have to walk around in fear.

New Sangam Officers: Raise Awareness, Activity

By SHAHRZAD REZVANI
Staff Writer

Sangam members ushered in next year's executive board this week as they held their annual elections.

Priya Gupta, a junior from Hopewell Junction, N.Y., on Tuesday was elected president of the organization which celebrates South Asian culture on campus.

Sangam members cast their votes for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer after the candidates made two-minute speeches and held 10-minute question and answer sessions.

Gupta's platform stressed her desire to prevent dwindling attendance at meetings toward the year's end.

"Next year at the elections, I want the same number of people as at the first meeting," she said.

Gupta planned to boost attendance by getting all members involved. "If you make (members) feel like they have a piece of Sangam, then they will stay," she said.

Gupta also emphasized the group's multiple commitments on campus.

"We are a cultural organization, but we're also a political organization and a service organization. We do give back a lot to the campus," she said.

Vice president-elect Sonia Daswani, former social committee chairwoman, expressed similar views. However, she also said that while she would maintain the cultural focus of the organization, she hoped to take it in a new direction by creating a resource center for members with the help of Saager, the graduate student division of Sangam.

"I want to increase networking

options so current Sangam members can contact graduated students who have gone into the work force," she said.

Monica Modi, a sophomore from Maryland who was elected co-secretary, said she planned to increase the communication between general members of Sangam and the cabinet. "I am going to (increase communication) with a new calendar format and publishing the cabinet minutes," she said.

Modi said she wanted to establish a system in which Sangam members published monthly editorials in The Daily Tar Heel.

"We want to inform students more about (South Asian) culture," she said.

Modi said she also hoped to bring all Asian campus groups together in a multicultural event.

Newly elected co-secretary Amisha

Raja agreed with Modi, saying the executives of all campus minority groups should meet and support each other.

Raja also said one of her platform goals was to fully educate members about their culture.

"We need to focus on politics, religion and the history of all South Asian countries and regions," said Raja, a sophomore from Chapel Hill.

Sangam president Susan Kansagra said she was optimistic that the newly elected executives would reveal an unseen side of Sangam by stressing its political and educational aspects.

"(The elected members are) really going to take Sangam in a new direction, going in places we haven't gone before."

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Appeals Court Orders Elian Gonzalez to Stay in U.S.

Associated Press

MIAMI - Chastising the government for ignoring the wishes of a 6-year-old boy, a federal appeals panel on Wednesday ordered that Elian Gonzalez must remain in the United States until an asylum hearing next month.

The court action, extending an earlier stay granted by one of the judges, marked the latest in a series of victories for Elian's Miami relatives, who have been battling his Cuban father in an international tug-of-war over the child.

The order, however, does not pre-

vent the government from reuniting father and son in the United States.

In Little Havana, a tense vigil quickly became a celebration, with people dancing, crying and chanting "God Bless America."

"The Gonzalez family continues to believe in the laws of the United States," said Lazaro Gonzalez, the great uncle who so publicly defied Attorney General Janet Reno's demand to turn the boy over to his Cuban father last week.

"We will continue to pray ... that (Elian) may remain where his mother

wanted him to be, in the life of freedom."

Reno, in Oklahoma City for the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the federal building bombing five years ago, said she would abide by the court order.

"But it does not disagree with my determination, it does not say that the boy cannot be reunited with his father," she said.

"I believe Elian should be reunited with his father, and I said that all along."

Wednesday's order was by a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit

Court of Appeals in Atlanta. The government could seek to have the stay lifted by the full circuit court or by a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Or it could wait until a scheduled May 11 hearing before the federal appeals court on the asylum request by the Miami relatives.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service had denied that request.

The 16-page ruling did not specifically forbid the INS from taking custody.

It also did not address government efforts to reunite Elian with his father, waiting in Washington since April 6.

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