# Miss North Carolina Set to Live Dream Graham Recovering

Hundreds of young women across the great state of North Carolina dream about it all year. Some dream about it year after year. Saturday night, the dream came true for Lorna McNeill. She's the new Miss North Carolina.

Competing as Miss Topsail Island, McNeill captured the crown, title, and scholarships Saturday evening at the conclusion of four nights of competi

The rising senior music performance major at UNC-Pembroke will now spend her summer preparing to represent us all at the Miss America pageant this fall. Another dream to

I have been a pageant supporter for years, having first covered them for television news stations, trade publica-tions and websites, and now working as an emcee or judge for several state level Miss America and Miss USA

organizations.

This year's Miss North Carolina Pageant was actually the first time in more than a decade I have been at a pageant without a role or responsibility

To fill that chore void, I dutifully scored the contestants through their Three phases of on-stage preliminary competition: talent, swimsuit, and evening wear. To witness the whole event, I brought along four pageant novices, one each of the four nights of

Mario was the first guest. A stage veteran himself, including of the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium stag upon which our eyes were fixed, Mario was taken by the enormity of the pro-

Indeed, it was first rate. The staging and choreography and music were all



DANA ROSENGARD TV GUY

wonderful and the room itself quite grand. I was busy scoring, successfully choosing the eventual preliminary talent winner and one of the two women who tied for Wednesday night's prelim inary swimsuit award, including a UNC law student, Miss Lincoln County. Swimsuit is worth just 15 percent of the overall score but my school mate had taken a nice step toward victory and collected a nice scholarship for being so physically fit and poised

Preliminary night two, I brought my friend Susan, whom I knew had a slight fascination with pageants from way back. Perched in the front row of the closest balcony section to the stage, Susan watched intensely. I was busy

As the talent competition went on, Susan was aghast at the number of tap dancers. Five of the eleven women presenting their talents that evening tip tap-toed across the stage in a variety of colorful and festive costumes and to an odd collection of very nontraditional musical selections. Not a boogie woo gie bugle to be heard in the whole lot.

But Ricky Martin proved tapable! Who knew? And when Miss Lincoln County (she being the tapper to Ricky Martin!) grabbed that night's talent award and more free funds for her eduwhen the last time a tap dancer won the whole shebang in Atlantic City? Couldn't tell her. But I, too, had the UNC law student turned tap dancer at the top of my award list and, again, had one of the two women handed

scholarship awards for swimsuit. There were dollars for college with every round of applause, some \$35,000 in all handed out at the state show this

Preliminary night three I brought my pal Tori whom has put up with a whole year's worth of my pageant sto-ries. She's a touch conservative but open-minded in a New York seen-it-all sort of way. Anyway, she was overwhelmed by the pep-rally nature of the event. Fans do go crazy for their pageant favorites and the audience was ery much alive at the Miss North Carolina pageant, a "fun for the whole family" kind of event.

It's an amazing show of love and support for some of the brightest and most dedicated young women in the

Friday night preliminary winners included a 3-way tie for swimsuit (I had picked one of them, solo) and I again agreed with the official judges in their selection of a pop vocalist as the

talent scholarship winner.
On the big night of the finals I took my buddy Pat. Great guy, Pat is, and he was hooked from the moment we arrived. Beautiful women everywhere, smartly dressed, what's not to like?

Pat had much more fun than he had anticipated and thought the show was far and away better than he had ever imagined. He also was near-to amazed at the confidence and poise the women demonstrated on stage in each phase of competition. "A degree of courage" is how he put it, and he was impressed.

We talked about the transferability of the pageant stage skills these women would enjoy during some of the pro-duction numbers (which I had now seen three previous times!).

I had correctly called seven of the top 10 semi-finalists from the field of 34 contestants. Not too shabby having had no read on the women's interview abilities, scores worth 30 percent of the overall preliminary total.

I called four of the top five as the field was narrowed one last time and, of course, I rooted for the only UNC-Chapel Hill woman among them, tap dancing law student Stacey Parker.

I'd met her in April and she couldn't have been nicer and now on stage she looked great from start to stop. But, alas, I didn't have a vote and she took the ever-important first runner-up honors (and a \$3,000 scholarship prize) in the last dramatic moment leaving Lorna McNeill standing as the teary winner of a \$10,000 scholarship and a

dream come true.
Will she be Miss America? As the traditional song goes, "the dreams of a million girls who are more than pretty, may come true in Atlantic City!

And if not there and then, then surely down the road for Miss McNeill and many of these fine women of the Miss North Carolina program who are pursuing academic, professional, and civic-related goals of which we can all

Dana Rosengard is a graduate student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication originally from Massachusetts, with many stops Massachusetts, with many stops between there and here. He can be reached at danar@unc.edu with questions, comments, concerns, or column

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# Well, Plans to Travel

The Rev. Billy Graham is talking over his plans to attend an evangelism conference in the Netherlands next month with his staff and his doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., after a procedure relieving fluid pressure on his brain.

Doctors anticipate Graham will be healthy enough to travel and speak abroad and for another crusade in November in Jacksonville, Fla., said A. Larry Ross, a spokesman for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

"His condition is stable and the doctors have said that he's been alert and been conversant and is especially talk-ing about plans for the future," Ross said Tuesday. "They're encouraged by his progress."

Crusade organizers and staff were

encouraged by Graham's stamina dur-ing his most recent crusade in Nashville, in., earlier this month, but the event did leave him tired and fatigued, Ross

"As an 81-year-old, he has to pace himself a little more to meet the demands of preaching," Ross said. "I think it's just part of the pattern that doctors recommend he clear the decks in advance, so he can beeat full

Graham discussed his Parkinson's disease and the problem with the fluid on his brain at a press conference before his Nashville crusade.

"I intend to keep on preaching as long as I have physical strength. I have losses of memory sometimes. ... But I haven't forgotten the Scriptures," he said. "I can still quote most of the Scripture I know - I know less than I thought."

Difficulties with memory and walking - symptoms which observers might attribute to Parkinson's disease - are among the three most common signs of condition that led to Graham's recent brain surgery, said Asheville neurologist

Dr. Rob Armstrong.
"It is not a life-threatening problem, but it certainly can be very incapacitating," Armstrong said.

A drainage tube was inserted into Graham's brain at the Mayo Clinic. The common treatment of hydrocephalus involves tunneling under the skin with a "shunt" – or small, thin catheter – to drain excess fluid and relieve pressure on the brain.

Such shunts typically are permanent and do not normally require repeat surgery so long as it functions properly remains uninfected, Armstrong

The Rev. Robert Featherstone, who works with Graham at the evangelist's home base in Montreat, in his home state of North Carolina, said Graham's staff is upbeat about his health.

Featherstone said, "There certainly

seems to be a positive feeling about his future around here."



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## Student Legal Services a Valuable Tool When in Trouble

f you want to avoid a criminal arrest and/or conviction record, pay attention to what can happen if

you possess or consume beer illegally.

The Chapel Hill Police Department has issued the following release:
On December 1, 1999 the North Carolina State Legislature altered the

underage possession statute (GS 18B-302) for individuals who are 19 or 20 years old. What previously was an infraction for the underage possess of alcohol is now a misdemeanor. Possession by an 18-year-old or younger person was already a misde

Prior to December 1, any 19 or 20 year old apprehended for possession of alcohol was issued a citation for an infraction. The penalty was a fine, which if paid, would end the matter without the person having a criminal record. The revised statute, however, provides that alcohol possession by any 19 or 20 year old is a Class 3 mis

This means that a 19 or 20 year old caught possessing alcohol may either be physically arrested and charged, or charged by the issuance of a citation with an order to appear in court. In addition to an arrest record with the law enforcement agency, the individual faces the possibility of a conviction and thus a criminal record.

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It is important to understand that even if a 19 or 20 year old is not physically arrested (taken into police custody), he or she is still being charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor. It is in the officer's discretion whether to place an individual charged with a misde meanor under physical arrest or to issue a citation. If the officer chooses not to arrest the individual, but instead issues a citation, that person must either pay the \$25.00 citation and court costs (\$86.00), or must appear in court. If the person does neither, an order for arrest will be issued.

Once cited for underage possession of alcohol, an individual has several options. One option is to pay off the citation. However, payment of a cita-tion is equivalent to pleading guilty and then having a criminal record. The second, more commonly used option in Orange County is to request deferred prosecution. A deferred prosecution will result in the dismissal of the charge after community service or some other requirement is filled. A UNC student who has not previously been charged with underage alcohol possession usually can obtain a deferred prosecution and dismissal by attending a UNC Alcohol Education Program.

Even if the individual is not convicted or the charge is dismissed, an arrest

record remains at the law enforcement agency where the arrest occurred. However, the individual may apply to the court for an order expunging all official records of the arrest and trail. This can only be done one time and not if the person has previously been convicted of a felony.

Also, if the individual is convicted of underage possession for any felony or misdemeanor (other than a traffic violation), he or she may apply to the court to expunge the criminal record. However, this petition may not be filed until two years after the date of

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advice and representation in other civil

To find out more about free legal services to students, check out this web site: http://sunsite.unc.edu/sls or come to Suite 222 in the Carolina Student Union or call 962-1303.

This article was prepared by Dottie Bernholz, director of Carolina Student Legal Services, Inc.



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