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Forum Explores Ways to End Campus Racism

Provost Robert Shelton emphasized the need for equal treatment and historical accuracy at UNC.

By TYLER MALAND
Staff Writer

Students left behind their pickets and bullhorns Tuesday night for an intimate discussion with Provost Robert Shelton about ways to eliminate mistreatment of minorities on campus.

Senior Melanie Taylor and junior Kristi Booker, spokeswomen for the On the Wake of Emancipation Campaign, headed up the event, which drew more than 50 students and faculty members.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sue Kitchen and Director of Minority Affairs Archie

Ervin were also in attendance.

The forum was organized in response to the April 2 OWEC protest about charges of institutional racism at UNC.

During the protest, participants presented a list of demands to Shelton on the steps of South Building and then met with him Friday to discuss implementing changes at UNC. "The whole premise of these demands is to guarantee a safe campus environment for people of color at UNC," Booker said to start the forum.

Some of OWEC's demands urge the University to take a more active role in publicizing minorities' role in UNC's history, increase accountability of campus police to ensure no racial profiling and increase financial support for the Office of Minority Affairs.

At Tuesday's forum, students were given the chance to ask Shelton specific questions about racism on campus and his ideas of the situation. The future role of

the Office of Minority Affairs was raised.

Shelton said many University offices are undergoing budget cuts next year but that the Office of Minority Affairs will not be affected because of its heightened level of responsibility.

He also responded to questions about housekeeper wages, saying that two pay raises recently have been given. "There have been very specific steps taken," he said. "I think we need to applaud that and then say 'where do we go from there?'"

Shelton also said he hopes to meet the demands of reaching truthful depictions of the campus's history, starting with printed materials generated by UNC. Though Shelton never mentioned it specifically, protesters have demanded that a plaque be placed on Saunders Hall disclosing its namesake's ties to the Ku Klux Klan.

Shelton stressed trying to implement

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DTH/BRENT CLARK

Provost Robert Shelton and fellow panelists listen as sophomore Charles Vakala poses a question at a forum on institutional racism Tuesday night.

Board to Resolve CAA Case

Senior Liz Gardner confirmed that she and junior B.J. Talley were linked by the Board of Elections to a forged e-mail.

By KIM MINUGH
University Editor

The Board of Elections is slated to begin deliberations early next week on the guilt of two students allegedly linked to the e-mail scandal in February's Carolina Athletic Association presidential race.

Senior Board of Elections members Carl Piraneo and Bryan Crumpler are in the process of presenting their findings from an investigation begun by the board's former vice chairman, Fred Hill, after the Feb. 15 disqualification hearing involving CAA President Reid Chaney and his opponent Michael Songer.

Board Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer confirmed Tuesday that two names were presented to the full board last week in connection with the "smoking gun" e-mail, later determined to be a forgery, that was presented as evidence by Songer in an effort to disqualify Chaney from the race.

Tuchmayer could not comment on the names, but senior Liz Gardner confirmed Tuesday that she and junior B.J. Talley, both Songer campaign workers, are the students in question and were assured by the board an opportunity to defend themselves. "They can't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that I was involved in the forgery," Gardner said. "There is no conclusive evidence that links anybody."

Gardner said she has no connections to the e-mail at all — its creation or its delivery. "They can't prove it because I wasn't involved in the creation of the forged e-mail."

Talley could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

The e-mail linked Chaney's campaign to an e-mail sent by a former Carolina Fever President and UNC alumnus Davin McGinnis that characterized Songer as dishonest and deceptive.

Under elections laws, any slanderous actions by a campaign could be considered grounds for disqualification.

Tuchmayer said the board will convene Monday to hear the rest of the evidence and then deliberate and write up the findings agreed upon by the board before the week's end.

Hill originally opened the investigations to determine the e-mail's origin.

And because the elections are well in the past and Chaney has been installed as CAA president, Tuchmayer said the board's persistence in the matter has mostly been to answer lingering questions. "Because the election was so long ago, it would be moot to take campaign or punitive action, but I imagine the board could take action if they wanted to."

Tuchmayer said the findings will be released and that the board's involvement likely will end there. "The board will probably publish something similar to a 'finding of fact' — what the board believes to be true at this point," he said.

Tuchmayer said conclusion is needed to close the matter. "It's the board's (opinion) that it's gone on too long, and it's time to resolve this issue," he said.

"Because the investigation was launched, we have to close it, so our motivation is to reach finality with the whole CAA controversy."

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Practicing What They Preach

By JASON ARTHURS
Staff Writer

When God made the first man from a piece of clay, the human's soul refused to enter such a dark object. Then God started playing music — music that caused the soul to whirl around. Intoxicated by the sound, the soul lodged in the body, where it has been ever since.

Or so goes a traditional Sufi story of creation.

But Sufis aren't the only people who understand a deep connection between art and spirituality — a connection you don't have to look far to see.

For example, "God: Stories" and "How to Know God" are both titles of books on display at Monday, College Student Stores.

"Five Faiths" is an exhibit at Tuesday, Chapel Hill Ackland Art Museum featuring Today: Arts & Sports artists of each of the five major religions of the world. Thursday: UNC Perspectives

The frontman of local band My Dear Ella sings, "God is where you are right now, close your eyes, and let him take you home."

But what you see when you look around doesn't always reflect the artists' thoughts about combining their crafts with the unearthly.

For some, their inner struggles or attempts to discover God have shaped them in ways that are thematically expressed in their work.

For others, creating art such as music is, in itself, a spiritual experience that is a vessel for

truth.

For Cem Williford, a local Sufi musician and storyteller originally from Turkey, it's a combination of the two.

"That's why people enjoy music," said Williford, referring to the Sufi creation story. "Because it touches the soul."

Sufis, or Islamic mystics, use traditional and new music, storytelling and dancing to communicate their message.

"Music and dance are a very important part of the whole worship practice," Williford said after gracefully switching to his native Turkish tongue to answer the telephone. "It becomes more accessible when it is actually sung."

While the arts of music, storytelling and dance are crucial to Sufis, other local artists find their own individual spiritualities influencing their art in other ways.

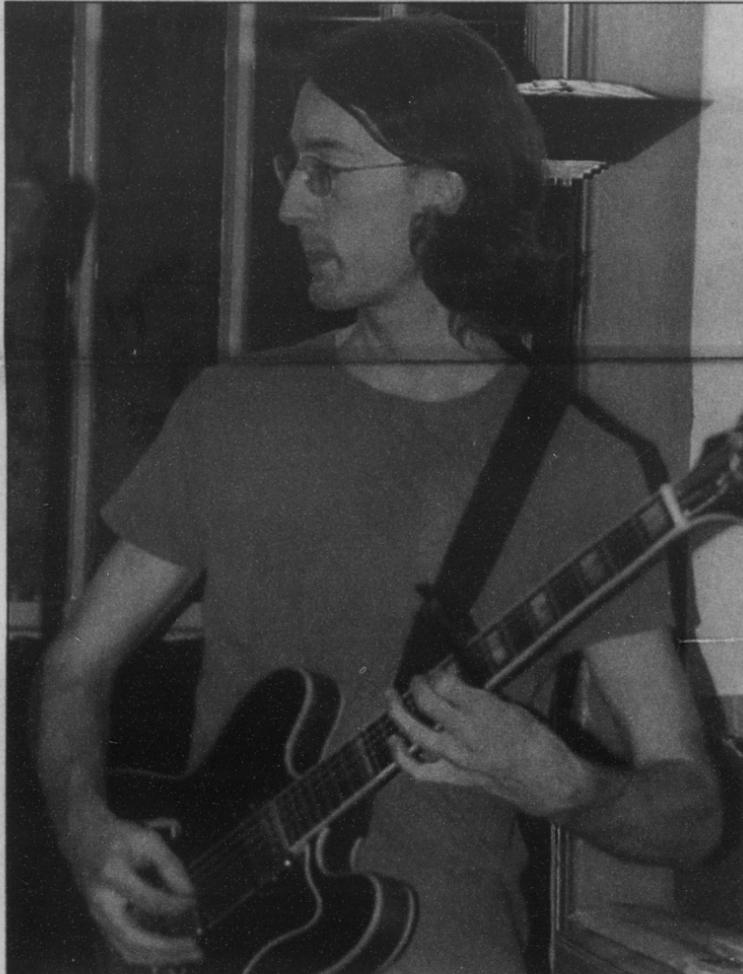
Dan Alger's music is a way to share his growth, struggles, joy and discovery in knowing God personally.

Alger, a senior communication studies major, is an acoustic musician who spent three years working for the local Christian indie-folk label Awakening Records.

"Part of the calling of a musician is to make aesthetically pleasing music about what's important to you," Alger said.

For Alger, that's his faith.

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DTH/JEREMIAH SHACKELFORD

Eric Wallen practices with his band, My Dear Ella, at his local residence. Wallen's religious faith plays a vital role in his music.

UNC Athletes Pray Before Games, Take Faith to Fields

By MIKE OGLE
Senior Writer

Caleb Norkus could sometimes be found reading the Bible at his locker before the North Carolina men's soccer team took the field.

"I started bringing my Bible to the locker room and would read one or two of my favorite verses or a verse someone had given me to encourage me before games or at halftime," the senior said. "Or I would say a simple prayer."

He didn't always say his prayers alone.

Norkus, who is involved in Athletes in Action, Campus Crusade for Christ and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, said he and his teammates often prayed together before games.

It's a common event for an athletic team to have such huddles before competition. So common, in fact, that most observers probably don't give them a second thought. Religion has been

intertwined with sports so frequently that sometimes the two seem to go hand in hand.

But early this season, Norkus said, one of the team's assistant coaches asked the men's soccer players not to have team prayers anymore.

"We went to pray like our first game, and our assistant coach came up and said, 'Not everyone is down with this. Let's not make anyone uncomfortable,'" Norkus said.

Norkus understood the point the coach — who is out of town this week on a recruiting trip and could not be reached for comment — was trying to make. "I don't really think that guys are against it," Norkus said. "I just think they're not all for it. So it's kind of like if you're not all for it then you're maybe not comfortable with it. And I've been in that place definitely."

So they stopped.

Other teams at the University continue to pray. Infielder Sarah Young usually leads the

softball team in prayer before heading out on the field for a game — a ritual the junior said was in place before she arrived from Annandale, Va.

Outfielder Adam Greenberg said UNC coach Mike Fox leads the baseball team in prayer before games.

But at a public university, not everyone is religious. Not everyone who is religious is Christian.

Just ask Greenberg.

"I believe what I believe, and I'm not going to make an issue out of that," the sophomore said. "Being the only Jewish person on this team, a lot of people are kind of fascinated by it, and they ask me questions about it."

Greenberg said the team prayers don't bother him because he's used to being a minority, and nothing is being forced upon him. He removes his cap and bows his head, like everyone else, out of respect. "For me, I can just let it go over my head," he said.

Young, who spent two weeks in Mexico two summers ago playing softball and doing Christian missionary work, said she doesn't think the team prayers she leads are a problem on the softball squad.

"Because it's led by us and it's not enforced by the University at all, I don't think there's any kind of issue," she said.

But the reminders of religion in sports go beyond team prayers.

Organizations such as Athletes in Action use sports to help spread their religious messages. Norkus said he sometimes knelt and quickly said "thank you" to God after scoring a goal.

Some baseball players give the sign of the cross as they step into the batter's box. Ronald Curry points to the sky after throwing a touchdown pass. Sometimes athletes mention their reli-

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Stealing, stealing, stealing a car for Moe. Stealing, stealing, insurance fraud today!

Homer Simpson