

Schools eye gender issues YMCA looks to increase space

BY STEPHEN MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Affirmative action, once believed to be the racial equalizer for higher education, is being used to give men an edge in admissions at Kenyon College, in Ohio.

Noting the trend of more female than male applicants to colleges, Jennifer Delahunty Britz, admissions dean at Kenyon, wrote last week in a New York Times op-ed piece that the university's application process is more lenient toward male applicants.

With 13 of the 16 UNC-system schools, including UNC-Chapel Hill, enrolling more women than men, such trends appear prevalent in-state as well. UNC-CH's fall 2005 enrollment was 42 percent male.

But just how great an impact Kenyon's example could play on system schools can be found buried deep within Title IX, the gender-oriented educational amendment instituted in 1972.

The law denies public undergraduate schools and both public and private graduate schools from using gender to choose incoming students, said John Boger, a UNC-CH law professor.

However, private undergraduate programs, such as Kenyon College can use gender legally as a factor in deciding who is admitted, he said.

And while a gender-based form of affirmative action might not appear on system campuses anytime soon, it remains a relevant issue for other nearby schools.

Christoph Guttentag, dean of undergraduate admissions at Duke University, said admissions decisions are tough ones, with factors apart from gender weighing heavily.

"When we are considering similarly qualified applicants and we are looking at any number of a dozen or two dozen factors, we think it is legitimate under those circumstances to include gender in the mix."

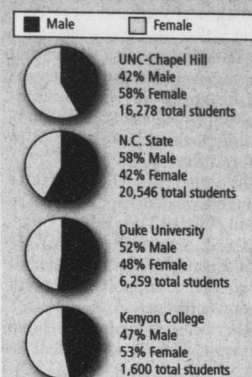
While gender can't be a primary focus of admission at N.C. State University, it still is a factor in the overall decision process, said Laura McLean, senior associate director of admissions.

"We do a wholistic review and try to make as consistent and realistic decision as we can based on building a diverse freshman class."

At the end of the day, every university must decide what kind of student is best for its future,

Gender on campus

Males are fast becoming the minorities on campus, including 13 system schools.



SOURCE: ADMISSIONS OFFICES
DTH/BOBBY SWEATT

Guttentag said.

"So what admissions is about ultimately is creating a student body that's right for that institution at that point of time."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

BY NICOLE LUKOSIUS
STAFF WRITER

Keeping students busy in the area could get easier if a Chapel Hill community center gains approval for a new after-school center.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA is in the process of developing plans for an 1,800-square-foot youth center that will offer a wide variety of activities to cater to many different age groups.

"We want to make this a real community place where kids can come and hang out and just have fun," said Maureen Dolan-Rosen, chairwoman of the YMCA board of directors.

The YMCA uses all of the space it has at 980 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., so a new center just for youth would be an important addition to the community, she said.

Having another building would also allow the YMCA to extend its business hours and to provide more parking — two perennial issues.

Dolan-Rosen said the need for expansion can be seen in the YMCAs' "Middle School Madness" program, which has been held a few times this year. About 400 middle-schoolers have attended each of the weekend events, in

which children can go to dance and play games.

But space is extremely limited for such a large group.

To ensure the new center focuses on youth needs, a design committee has spoken with high-school students to incorporate things they say they would enjoy, Dolan-Rosen said.

Accordingly, the youth center is scheduled to have a basketball court, a rock-climbing facility, pingpong tables, activity rooms and classrooms.

"It is important for youth to be able to express themselves," said Laura Wenzel, director of Pa'lante, a local teen group for Latinos.

"You're not going to get the kids' interest by making a youth center an extension of the school day."

Lauren Radson, who works at the Street Scene youth center beneath the Franklin Street post office, expressed similar sentiments. Radson is the community celebrations specialist and teen center coordinator for Chapel Hill.

"An effective youth center will provide activities to cater to kids' creativity, wants and needs," she said.

Wenzel added that it is also important for the community to

"You're not going to get the kids' interest by making a youth center an extension of the school day."

LAURA WENZEL, INSTRUCTOR

be involved because effective programs will not exist in isolation. "We're all working toward the same goal," she said.

Consultants are in the process of completing a community assessment, which includes talking to residents about the desire and need for a youth center as well as the financial feasibility.

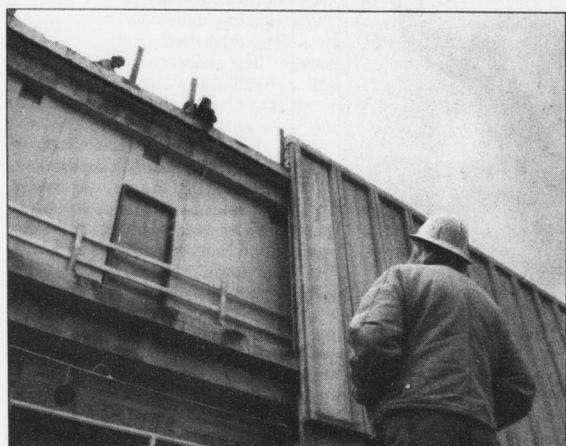
If the assessment goes well, an extensive fundraising campaign will be conducted, which could last from 11 months to a year.

"People I've talked to seem to be very supportive of the idea, and we'll break ground as soon as we can," Dolan-Rosen said.

"It's an exciting thing for the Y, and this would benefit the kids greatly."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

MOVING ON UP



DTH/COURTNEY POTTER

Construction worker Jim Worley supervises his co-workers in the Pit as they weld tubes to the top of Student Stores last week. The project, which is nearing completion, includes the addition of retail space and an upgrade to the plumbing and electrical systems.

3 honored for support to women on campus

BY CARRIE BERTOLOZZI
STAFF WRITER

University officials filled a vacant award hole Tuesday.

The first University Awards for the Advancement of Women were awarded to three individuals for their work in women's issues.

The awards were created following the retirement of the Cornelia Phillips Spencer Bell Award in December 2004.

The Bell Award — which was retired after almost a year of protest — was named for a white supremacist who played a large role in reopening the University after it closed during Reconstruction.

While the award has been christened with a new name, it still honors people who have devoted themselves to improving the environment for women at UNC, said Jane Brown, chairwoman of the woman's award committee and a former Bell Award recipient.

Members of the community were nominated, and three recipients



Lecturer Jan Boxill does radio color commentary for women's basketball away games.



Graduate student Matt Ezzell is a founding member of an anti-violence project.



Recruitment director Terri Houston was honored for work with the multicultural affairs office.

— one faculty member, one staff member and one student — were chosen by a committee appointed by Chancellor James Moeser.

"I am very happy that the chancellor has chosen to acknowledge women and the need to work to improve the situation for women with these awards," Brown said.

Jan Boxill, the faculty recipient of the award, is a radio announcer for UNC women's basketball games and the director of the Parr Center for Ethics.

"I participate in a lot of programs, both on and off campus, to encourage young women to take advantage of resources, just as I have done," said Boxill, a philoso-

phy professor. "In every way, I try to help women succeed."

Terri Houston, the staff member recipient of the award, is the director of recruitment and multicultural programs in the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

"The students love being able to go talk with Terri," Brown said.

Although the award focuses on women's issues, recipients are not limited to women.

"We cannot have women fully involved in this culture without the support of men," Brown said.

Matt Ezzell, the student recipient of the award, is a graduate student in the sociology department who was a founding member of the

Men's Anti-Violence Leadership Education Project.

"Matt Ezzell has been instrumental in involving men in reducing violence against women," Brown said.

Moeser presented each recipient with a framed certificate and a check at the ceremony Tuesday. Boxill and Houston received a check for \$5,000 each, and the Ezzell was given a check for \$2,500.

Brown said all three recipients stand out in their service to women. "These were all people who have been working on important issues relevant to women for many years."

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