

Remembering the student's president

BY WHITNEY KISLING UNIVERSITY EDITOR

When Eve Carson got to talking about what makes UNC special, her eyes would light up. A smile would spread across her face, and she'd nearly stumble over her words in an anxious, overexcited way.

The Carolina Way, she would say, is what makes the University more than just a place — it's what makes it a home and an identity.

She often described that spirit as a commitment to UNC's prestigious reputation, support for students, academic freedom, service to the public.

And from now on, Eve herself will be a part of that definition.

Because it's her spirit and her energy that the campus community has been thinking about and talking about in the wake of her death.

In an address Thursday afternoon, Chancellor James Moeser gave voice to the effervescence that made Eve the prime example of the Carolina Way.

"Eve Carson personified the Carolina spirit. She did perhaps more profoundly than anyone I've known in my whole time here," Moeser told more than 5,000 people sitting, standing and holding each other on Polk Place. "She felt the very pulse and the heartbeat of this University."

But it doesn't take a podium or a title or even a strong tie to Eve to know and understand that she was the epitome of the Carolina student.

Born in Athens, Ga., the bright-eyed 22-year-old set foot on UNC's campus in fall 2004, wasting little time in diving headfirst into her new world. She was involved in every group from student government — eventually becoming the student body president — to Nourish International to UNITAS diversity-themed housing.

That extensive dedication to service and student groups is something Eve carried over from Clarke Central High School. She was student body president there, too.

"Eve is the kind of girl you want your daughter to grow up to be," said Maxine Easom, principal at Clarke Central.

"She is one of the most perfect children I've ever worked with. More than that, she was one of the most compassionate young women. She loved people. She was beautiful inside and out."

Her philosophy seemed to be to live life fully. She studied, she worked, she traveled, she socialized, she explored.

Most apparent, though, was her ability to reach out to her friends and even complete strangers.

A quote from Martin Luther King Jr. is cited as one of her favor-

ites on Facebook: "We must all live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools."

Maybe it was all the sports teams she played on, or maybe it was her ability to get comfortable in any situation. Either way, Eve had the ability to motivate and inspire those around her.

"She was always the most lively person to meet in the Pit. She goes to all of our shows and sits with the founder of the group because she's become pretty good friends with him," said David Mikush, a Clef Hanger and friend of Eve's. "I really think one could say she was the most popular student on campus."

Eve maintained her high level of academic achievement even after high school, coming to UNC as a Morehead-Cain scholar — one of the most prestigious honors at the University. She became a member of Phi Beta Kappa honor fraternity.

"I went to high school with Eve. She was just as impressive in high school as she was here," sophomore Alexander Stephens said.

And like Eve, Stephens is a Morehead-Cain scholar. He said she was largely responsible for helping him secure the award.

"She advised me through the

whole process. She was e-mailing me; she was just so encouraging and so enthusiastic and really cares."

It takes a lot of stamina to maintain the level of dedication to others that Eve had, but so many describe her as an unstoppable force. An abundance of energy that just doesn't run out.

"She loved Carolina, and her enthusiasm was so infectious. When she walked into a room she filled it up. Her persona was magnetic," said General Alumni Association President Doug Dibbert, who met with Eve shortly after she took office.

Eve used her energy and passion in her role as student body president during her senior year and in campaigning for the position the year before.

Junior Josephine Butler remembers her first impression of Eve outside in the rain soliciting student votes during the election last year.

"Eve Carson is standing out there in front of Rams Head just really excited and so thankful to be there and having the option to run in the elections and was just saying, 'Vote for me,' to all the students,"

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DTH FILE PHOTO



DTH/RACHEL RODEMANN

The University community mourned the loss of Student Body President Eve Carson during a candlelight vigil in the Pit on Thursday night.

Candlelight vigil held in Carson's memory

Thousands of students fill Pit

BY KATIE HOFFMANN SENIOR WRITER

Upon learning of Student Body President Eve Carson's death, many students had problems putting words to her spirit.

At a candlelight vigil Thursday night in the Pit, the University community let pictures do the talking.

A slideshow showed Carson in Egypt in front of a pyramid. On an intramural team. Helping children. At a football game. With friends. With students.

Carson with her student body president campaign team. Jumping down a sand dune. Meditating on a sand dune.

Carson singing karaoke. Dancing. Painting. At the Old Well. In the Pit.

It showed the epitome, many students said, of "the Carolina way."

"She always made us smile," said Christian Mibelli, director of the student body outreach committee, who helped organize the event. "This is the least we can do."

The vigil, which featured a few short speeches and three a capella groups, lasted less than 30 minutes, but students stayed for more than an hour.

The mood was one of solidarity — sometimes crying, sometimes laughing at memories of Carson.

Patrick Smith, a friend of Carson's, joked about "Eve Standard Time" and her tendency to be late as he addressed the crowd.

"The only thing Eve was really

never late for were the late-night dance parties at her house because it never started until she got there," he said.

"Eve, we miss you very much."

It is uncertain how many people attended the vigil, but organizers passed out 2,000 to 3,000 candles, Mibelli said. More than 5,000 people attended an address from Chancellor James Moeser about her death earlier in the day.

"I can't think of one single person who could create such a strong reaction across the entire campus," former Senior Class President Meg Petersen said at the vigil.

Students could fill index cards with their memories of Carson, which Mibelli said would be compiled and shared with the community.

"Eve was completely devoted to Carolina," said Winston Crisp, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.

"It was important for the students to grieve together, to remember Eve together, before everyone disperses for Spring Break."

Several students at the event said they did not know Carson personally but were touched by her work for the campus community and the tragedy of her death.

"The fact that this could happen to a UNC student — and a great one at that — it's just such a loss," said junior Tiffany Whiting.

Mibelli said the vigil turnout was a testament to Carson's presence on campus.

"She was an amazing individual. This whole day showed that."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Police still looking for answers

Car is recovered on North Street

BY SARA GREGORY CITY EDITOR

The identification of the woman shot Wednesday as Student Body President Eve Carson only answers one of the many questions police and the community face in the coming days.

Police recovered the 22-year-old's blue 2005 Toyota Highlander Thursday afternoon but have no leads or suspects. The investigation continues as the campus mourns.

"It's times like this that test us," Chancellor James Moeser told the more than 5,000 who gathered Thursday afternoon on Polk Place.

Carson was identified more than a day after police received a 911 call reporting gunshots in the area off of East Franklin Street.

Her body was found moments later lying in the intersection of Hillcrest Road and Hillcrest Circle, with at least one gunshot to the right temple.

Carson didn't have an ID when her body was discovered, and police spent most of Wednesday trying to identify her. Friends reported her missing early Thursday morning and later identified the body.

News that the woman could be Carson spread early Thursday and was confirmed by Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran at a 12:30 p.m. press conference.

Chancellor James Moeser notified students in an e-mail at 12:40 p.m. and asked students to gather on Polk Place.

At 3 p.m. thousands came and stood shoulder-to-shoulder in rapt silence, filling the quad in an enormous outpouring of support for the slain student leader.

"The expression I heard her use more than any other was Eve loved to talk about the Carolina way," Moeser said. "You all have heard her say that, and she knew what it meant and she, in the way she lived her life, embodied the Carolina way — a commitment to others."

Moeser said coping with Carson's death will require the University to come together and urged students to seek counseling.

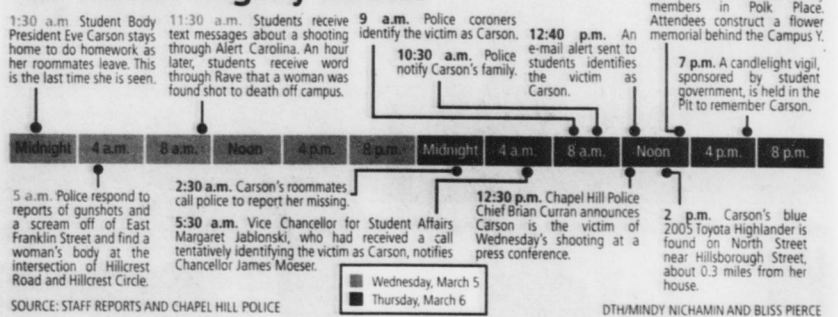
The office of the dean of students and Counseling and Wellness Services were available until 11 p.m. Thursday and will continue to be available throughout Spring Break. Duke University will send some counselors to UNC to talk with students also.

"I want to encourage you to reach back to the University and let us help you," Moeser said. "It's OK to



DTH/ALLIE WASSUM

The Carson tragedy unfolds



DTH/MINDY NICHAMIN AND BLISS PIERCE

ery. It's OK to be filled with grief."

Moeser finished addressing students at the Bell Tower tolled a somber "Hark the Sound" and those in attendance wrapped arms around one another. Students sitting near South Building placed flowers on a makeshift memorial behind the Campus Y.

"I've never seen this many students in one place be so quiet," Curran said.

State flags on campus will fly at half-staff in memory of Carson, Gov. Mike Easley said Thursday night. He pledged full support to the University as it deals with her murder.

Most of the past two days have been spent trying to understand how violence could hit so close to home. Curran said Thursday afternoon that the murder appears to have been a random act of violent crime.

"But as I said earlier, I don't know that for sure," he said.

The police department's records dating back to 2001 don't show any violent crimes in the area where Carson was found, Curran said.

HOW TO GET COUNSELING

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Counseling and Wellness Services, Campus Health Services.
Info: campushealth.unc.edu

Only six carjackings with force were reported in Chapel Hill between 2004 and October 2007.

She was found in a wealthy neighborhood where few students live, residents said. It is a popular place for jogging and walking dogs.

"If something like this can happen on Hillcrest Drive, it can happen anywhere," said Tom Jensen, a Chapel Hill resident and 2005 student body president hopeful who worked with Carson last summer.

Her visible presence as student body president has some wondering whether she was targeted.

"Did this happen because she's a president?" asked East Carolina University Student Body President Keri Brockett.

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Rare violence

Jan. 26, 1995
Wendell Williamson, a 26-year-old UNC third-year law student, killed two people and wounded two others when he went on a shooting spree on Henderson Street, killing sophomore lacrosse player Kevin Reichardt and Chapel Hill resident Ralph Walker Jr.

July 31, 1965
Suellen Evans was stabbed as she walked through Coker Arboretum in broad daylight. The 21-year-old UNC-Greensboro student was taking summer classes at UNC. The case remains unsolved.

April 7, 1950
George Lemuel Bennett Jr., a 22-year-old junior from Wadesboro, was shot to death in his home on Henderson Street. The case was ruled a murder-suicide when the body of his housemate, Len Smithey, a 30-year-old ex-graduate student, was discovered the following day near Forest Theatre.