

Renwick steers black students away from 'racist' professors

From Staff and wire reports

Administrator Hayden B. Renwick said Tuesday he considers racist only "pockets of the University." Hayden's statement came just hours after United Press International (UPI) reported the black administrator keeps tabs on UNC professors he considers bigoted.

"I don't want anybody to get the idea I was attacking the University as a whole," Renwick said.

Renwick, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, told UPI he keeps a mental list of professors who should be "off limits" to black students. He bases his judgments of racism upon students' complaints and his own subsequent investigations to see if the complaints are valid. Renwick said he does not check up on a professor unless he receives several complaints.

Renwick, who heads a minority advising program, said his job is to warn minority students to "steer clear" of racist instructors.

"I stand before the minority freshman and tell them that 'if you have this person for English, you will drop that section,'" Renwick said.

But Renwick insists he keeps no lists and is not searching for bigots among the faculty. He says the most courses he can remember warning against in a large minority orientation session is three. Renwick said he deals only with the "most notorious cases" of racism.

Renwick, who has worked with minority students since he came to UNC in 1969, said "I don't think black students are naive enough to think that when they come here, everybody will be true blue."

"There is a certain amount of racism that faces any institution," he said. "I'll try to tell them that it is here, that it will be here when they leave and their children come here."

Renwick's position is not the official position of the College of Arts and Sciences, according to Dean James R. Gaskin. "It must be a personal policy of his," Gaskin said.

Renwick said a typical student complaint was registered with him when a professor told a black student, "You made a 'C' on this paper because I understand that your people can't write better than this."

"If a professor makes a statement like that," Renwick said, "I think the student is at a disadvantage. A black is already stereotyped, and I'm not too fond of that."

"All I'm looking for is a fair, equitable chance for blacks."



Hayden Renwick

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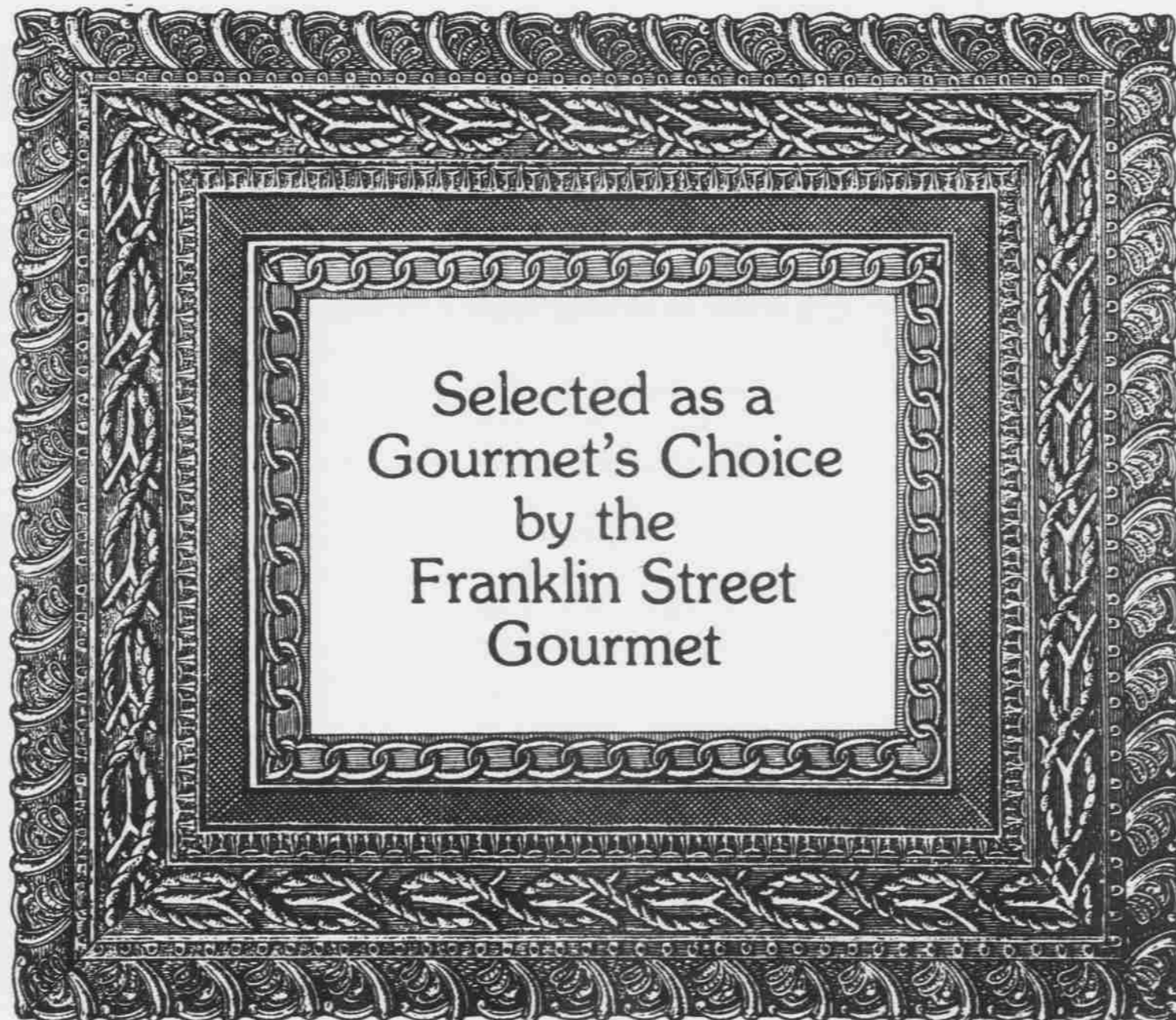
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