

Report makes suggestions for better teaching at UNC

By LYNN AINSWORTH
Staff Writer

Effective teaching should be a priority for all faculty members, according to recommendations made Oct. 6 in a report by the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Teaching.

Some of the committee's recommendations on improving the quality of undergraduate education at UNC, especially those concerning teaching

assistants' proficiency with spoken English, have already been implemented, according to University officials.

The committee released its report after conducting a year-long study of the issue.

The report stressed the need for quality teaching assistants, especially those who are proficient in the English language.

The committee suggested that a

reward system be established for teaching assistants, bringing them money and recognition for outstanding teaching.

It also called for physical improvements in classrooms and recommended that the University build two large lecture halls with a capacity of 500 people. Secretarial and technical support staff should also be increased to meet the needs of faculty and students, according to the committee.

John Kasarda, sociology department chairman, said overall, he was pleased with the report. Although UNC is a great research university, undergraduate instruction cannot be ignored, he said.

"They (research and teaching) don't really compete with each other," Kasarda said. "The two really go hand-in-hand."

Gillian Cell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, agreed. "I think

most of the teaching that goes on here ... is extremely good. It's absolutely wrong to think there is a contradiction between good teaching and learning. It's part of a continuum, part of the same process."

The College of Arts and Sciences and Student Government funded an intensive short course in English for international teaching assistants in September, Cell said.

"I think we did not get as many (participants) in the short course as we would have liked," Cell said. "But ideally it does need to be a long course."

A semester-long course in English is also offered through the Division of Extension and Continuing Education, Cell said.

Some states have passed laws requiring that teachers be proficient in spoken English before they are allowed to teach in public schools, Cell said. "I think we can deal with it without law," she said.

Joseph Lowman, a committee member and associate professor of psychology, said the problem of UNC teaching assistants who are not proficient in English is relatively minor when compared to schools nationwide.

"There's no simple solution," Lowman said. "You can measure how

well a foreign graduate student can read English, but speaking it is different."

Many foreign graduate students rely heavily on teaching assistant salaries while they complete their studies, Lowman said. "If we had enough stipends, we could give them money and they wouldn't have to teach," he said.

The Center for Teaching and Learning offered a workshop in September that focused on the skills of teaching assistants, according to Martha Fowler, assistant to the director at the center. Handbooks were distributed to the approximately 250 graduate students that attended, Fowler said. Junior faculty members and teaching assistants are still requesting copies of the manual, she said.

Teaching assistants and faculty members may videotape a class session through the center for instructional purposes, Fowler said. They may also meet with an instructor trainer to discuss classroom performance, she said.

The center is also sponsoring a series of open hearings dealing with teaching and learning excellence, Fowler said. The forums will begin Oct. 18 and continue through Nov. 8 in the Student Union.

Groups to promote alcohol awareness

By JAMES BENTON
Staff Writer

UNC's Department of Housing and Student Health Services are teaming up this week to mark National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week by emphasizing moderate use of alcohol and focusing awareness on issues concerning alcohol use.

UNC will observe Alcohol Awareness Week Oct. 16-22. The program is in its fifth year, but UNC is participating for the first time this year.

"We want the campus to become more aware of alcohol issues, especially drinking and driving," said Julianna Cruse, assistant area director for STOW Residence College.

UNC's focus in the program this week is to increase awareness of drinking and emphasize responsible drinking and abstention from drug use, Cruse said. University Housing, Student Health and the DELTA Squadron — a group affiliated with Student Government — are sponsor-

ing programs this week designed to inform students about alcohol use, she said.

Alcohol abuse problems are tolerated and sometimes even accepted on campus, Cruse said.

"It disturbs me that it seems to be normal behavior to get intoxicated," she said. "We can't condone drug use. I see little of it, but it's out there. If students understand that we're talking about responsible use (of alcohol), then we'll get a good response."

The groups will sponsor about 35 programs in the nine residence areas on campus, Cruse said. Scheduled programs range from talks on substance abuse to an alcohol-free bar party Wednesday night at the Cabaret in the Carolina Union.

The bar party will also feature a concert by Hinton Presley and Bill Buchanan and is sponsored by resident assistants in Cobb and Joyner Residence Halls. RA's will serve drinks and snacks, like a real bar,

except there is no alcohol.

Other events this week include "mocktail parties" featuring non-alcoholic drinks and "skills tests" in which students demonstrate the effects of alcohol on reaction time and other motor functions.

Students will also distribute contracts Wednesday and Thursday that students can sign, pledging to abstain from drug use, alcohol abuse and driving while impaired.

By last Friday, about 40 students had signed contracts, Cruse said.

Hardin Watkins, assistant area director for Scott Residence College, said the activities for this week have been planned since August. Area directors and their assistants worked together with RA's to come up with

ideas and plan programs, he said.

RA's will post more than 500 posters on campus that encourage responsible drinking and no drunk driving, Watkins said. "They are really hard-hitting," he said.

This week is the starting point for year-round efforts designed to increase awareness of alcohol abuse, Cruse said. DELTA Squadron is planning activities to fight drug use and alcohol abuse during the rest of the year, she added.

Watkins said he felt the message would get across to others. "If it (the week) keeps one person from driving drunk and hurting someone, I think that's worth it," he said. "If you choose to drink, do it responsibly. If not, just stay off the road."

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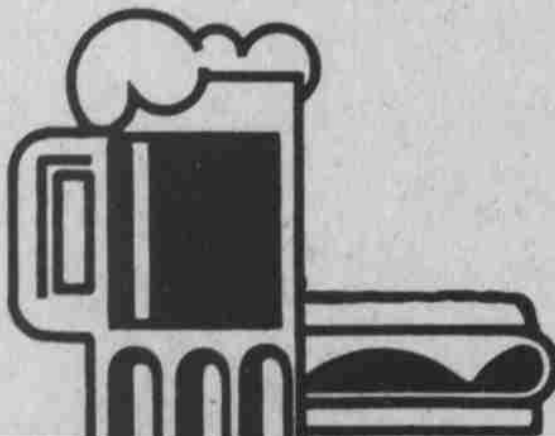
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A103 Art and reason

When Mark and I decided to spend the weekend at his mother's house, I never imagined I would be walking into a mouse's nightmare. There were cats everywhere.

Cat plaques, cat statues, cat clocks, even a cat mat. I couldn't begin to duplicate her collection of kitty litter if I spent a year at a garage sale. Conspicuously absent, however, was a real cat. Strange, I thought, and began to fear that a weekend with cat woman could be a lot less than purr-fect.

But then she came home, and Mark introduced her. She was dressed surprisingly well—no leopard pants. In fact, you could say she was the cat's meow, but I'd rather not.

She offered me a cup of Dutch Chocolate Mint. Now that was something I could relate to. Then she brought it out in the most beautiful, distinctly unfeline china I'd ever seen. As we sipped, I found out that Mrs. Campbell has my same weakness for chocolate, loves the theater as much as I do, but, incredibly, never saw "Cats." So Mark and I are taking her next month.



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