

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Face the nation

NAACP takes Edwards' case to higher level

For every person there comes a time when enough is enough.

And for University police officer Keith Edwards that time has come. She has been fighting the University since June 1987, when she first filed a racial and gender discrimination grievance against the police department. Edwards has filed three other grievances and a lawsuit over the last 41 months, but virtually nothing has changed.

Yet the tables may be about to turn. This week the NAACP announced that it will file a discrimination complaint with the federal government on Edwards' behalf.

The NAACP has the energy and the funds needed to bring this long nightmare to what should be a victorious end for Edwards. The fact that she has been fighting for nearly four years is evidence that something is amiss. The grievance finally reached the last stage of the procedure this January, and a judge declared Edwards the winner this June. The University decided to prolong the unpleasantness and appealed the decision.

Meanwhile, the police department appears to be crumbling fast. In June, officers invited Chancellor Hardin to discuss their concerns about the management. Fifteen officers walked out of the meeting, however, when they discovered that Hardin had also invited high-ranking officers. They said they feared retribution from the administrators.

Limit the 'five-year plan'

Delayed graduations hurt UNC financially

Although an analysis released Friday by the UNC system Board of Governors showed graduation rates at system schools compared favorably with other institutions, the statistics also revealed a disturbing trend: students are taking longer to graduate. As Provost Dennis O'Connor put it, the five-year plan seems to have become "the norm" both at UNC and nationally.

While it is encouraging to think that many undergraduates have decided to stay an extra year to further enrich their educational backgrounds, some of the consequences of allowing a five-year system to evolve would be disturbing. If every student chose to stay at the University five years, they would place an unbearable strain upon an already financially burdened institution.

If UNC's state funding stays constant or continues its downward trend, the University would have a difficult choice: either admit fewer freshmen each year or allow the total number of enrolled students to swell to include a fifth class. The second option would force administrators to either stretch the same amount of resources among more students or raise tuition. Neither is in students' best interest.

Some students have legitimate reasons for delaying graduation. They may take fewer hours because they are working, cannot adjust to a rigorous academic course load or have personal problems. Some un-

Last month, several officers complained that the department was setting quotas, was understaffed to the point of jeopardizing campus safety and was failing to provide sufficient equipment to protect officers. Police administrators denied these claims. In November, news came that 13 members of the department had left in the past year; one former officer cited low morale as a reason for retiring.

The NAACP will no doubt take all of this information and more to a national level, which is another reason why the presence of the organization in the case is valuable. News of Edwards' battle has already reached many parts of the state. NAACP involvement will only cause the number of eyes watching Chapel Hill to grow. Perhaps it would have been wiser if the University had tried to work with Edwards to resolve the department's problems instead of fighting her every step of the way. Now it is too late.

If the University is as innocent as it tries to appear, then there is nothing to hide. But it will be a sad day if and when Edwards wins her now federal case. At that time, the fact that this campus was the home to defaced posters and a racially offensive note left on an African-American's car will no longer surprise the nation. An institution that is guilty of racism and discrimination only breeds such atrocities. — **Lynette Blair**

dergraduate programs are designed to require more than four years of schooling, and class cancellations because of budget cuts have made it even more difficult to fulfill graduation requirements. But poor planning or a complete lack of planning is too often the reason undergraduates stay five or more years.

As the BOG analysis suggests, the University should improve advising, mentoring and orientation programs that encourage students to graduate in four years. However, if four-year graduation rates do not increase significantly in the next few years, more radical action may be necessary. Legislators could require North Carolina students to pay out-of-state tuition for their ninth semester and beyond. Students could petition the University for an exemption if they had legitimate reasons for continuing more than four years. Thus, they could graduate at a relatively low cost, but would not unduly burden the state or UNC.

The taxpayers of North Carolina should only be obliged to help fund the college education of students who have made sincere efforts to obtain undergraduate degrees in a reasonable number of semesters. Students in North Carolina are fortunate to have low-cost, quality education provided for them. They should not abuse this privilege by staying longer than is truly necessary. — **Jennifer Pilla**



Are you lonely, need a date? Call 976-CAROLINE

I have come back from registration hell to tell all people trying to call into CAROLINE that you need to stop. She's overloaded. She's overworked. She's underpaid, and she's got a nasty case of gastro-computer indigestion. But then again, don't we all.

Randy Basinger

Walk on the Wild Side

So, I had a personal conversation with her about a week ago. It was right after she had hung up on me twice and had been on-line with her boyfriend at State for two and a half hours. Once I got through, this is the general gist of the night's events:

9:34 p.m. on Sunday Oct. 28, 1990. In less than three hours, I finish reading the manual on how to get a date with CAROLINE, probably a personal record. I had my personal identification number and enough adrenaline to get over the fact that this was my first computer dating service. I knew that I was hard up for a date and that this was a last gasp effort.

I start calling, hang up three times on my own after the phone starts ringing and get busy signals for the next 45 minutes.

9:46 p.m. The same night. Get through once, but she hangs up on me when she realizes who it is. Bummer.

10:05 p.m. Same night. She answers the phone again, finally, and I make it to the point of putting in my social security number before she realizes it is me. I have disguised the tones of my touch tone by switching it to pulse. She is not amused and hangs up.

10:28 p.m. Same night. This conversation follows:

"Welcome to Caroline, UNC's newest tradition. Please enter the access code for the semester you wish to register," she says in that sexy voice of hers.

"Yeah, anything you want, honey." I type in the code.

"Please enter your personal identification

number."

This is getting kinda intense. She wants personal info, and we have never met, but I type that in as well.

"Please enter your social security number now."

"Okay. Okay. But we better get to the real point of this thing soon." In goes the social security number.

"Your last name is spelled B-A-S-I-N-G-E-R. Please register for your classes."

"Wait one second. I wanted to get a date, not register for classes." I say indignantly.

"Please enter your class digits and figures at this time."

I wanted a candlelight dinner for two at an intimate McDonald's, not classes. I smash my hand down on the phone's keypad and a loud BLEEP echoes out of the receiver.

"You have registered for Ancient Egyptian Child Development at 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. A three hour recitation is required for this course, with the only section being at 10 p.m. on Friday," CAROLINE informs me.

"NO! NO! NO! I wanted a date, not a class."

I start punching buttons trying to cancel the class when the computer starts talking to me again.

"You have registered for Polynesian Social and Cannibalistic Dance at 3 p.m. Monday/Wednesday/Friday. This class has a field trip to Samoa scheduled for Spring Break which will cost \$1,299 and class participation is required to pass."

I've got to stop her, I say to myself. If this

keeps up, I will find myself in classes I didn't even know existed.

Why is this happening to me? All I wanted was a lousy date, and this computer is ruining my life. I would have settled for a few hours of intelligent communication over the phone. I don't even like girls named CAROLINE.

"Please do something or I will be forced to register you for BioMed 342, Graduate Dissection in Cadaver Toe Dissection," CAROLINE says.

It hits me just what course of action I need to take. REVELATION!

"Hold the phone," I tell my roommate, handing him the receiver and leaving him standing with a blank look on his face.

I race for my car.

10:59 p.m. Night time. From all Police reports. "A car of unknown origin crashed into the building which houses the new CAROLINE computer system, causing about \$55,000 dollars in damage to the building and computer. No description of the subject can be given because nobody saw him or her, but the perpetrator was heard laughing hysterically as he or she fled the scene of the crime."

When they got her back on-line she remembered none of the conversation, and both I and my roommate were registered for all our classes with no 8 o'clocks. Life is grand.

3:13 p.m. Wednesday, October 31, 1990. I receive a letter in the mail from a girl in Topeka, Kansas, who would really like to discuss Polynesian social dance and Egyptian mummification over dinner. Go Figure.

Anyone going to Kansas over Thanksgiving? I'll help pay for gas.

Randy Basinger is a senior journalism and English major from Statesville who calls CAROLINE whenever he's lonely.

READERS' FORUM

Farrakhan's message was filled with hatred

standing.

To the editors:

Louis Farrakhan's message, as described in the Nov. 12 article, "Muslim leader urges students to work together to end racism," does not offer reasonable arguments and, as a result, fails to offer realistic solutions. Farrakhan maintains that blacks are the victim of a U.S. government "master plan" of racial suppression. Furthermore, his message of racial unity can only be recognized at the expense of interaction of ethnic groups.

Louis Farrakhan's attitude is strangely similar to David Duke's, former KKK Klansman and narrowly defeated 1990 candidate for Louisiana's U.S. Senate seat. Both men are intolerant of other races and place the blame of society's problems on those other people. While promoting unity of their own race, they condemn others who differ on issues of abortion and homosexuality. Their paranoid visions of conspiracy and use of pseudosciences to back up their own claims of ethnic superiority only weaken intelligent efforts to open people's minds to social and economic problems affecting millions of Americans.

When faced with problems of society, we are all guilty of wearing blinders like a carriage horse that only allow us to see in a limited scope. Farrakhan also wears blinders by seeing problems affecting minorities as being the direct result of conspiracy among evil white leaders.

By giving irrational reason for problems, Farrakhan does not offer realistic solutions. He emphasizes education, and of course, the importance of education for improving society is undeniable. However, the education Farrakhan promotes only exacerbates tensions between racial groups instead of promoting interaction and under-

ANDY CARTER
 Junior
 Political Science/
 East Asian Studies

Letter suggests five alternate statue sites

Editors' note: The following letter was written on behalf of student leaders and the Community Against Offensive Statues (CAOS) to John L. Sanders, chairman of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Buildings and Grounds. Copies of this letter were sent to Chancellor Paul Hardin and Vice Chancellor Donald Boulton.

Dear Mr. Sanders:

We are writing to you on behalf of the student leaders involved in the effort to move the sculpture, "The Student Body," located in front of the Davis Graduate Library. It is our understanding that the chancellor has made a charge to the committee to suggest alternate sites so that he can ultimately decide whether the statues should be moved and where they should be located in that circumstance. The group of student leaders wants to offer some suggestions of sites and respectfully requests an emergency meeting of the Building and Grounds Committee at the earliest possible convenience to discuss alternate sites for the chancellor's final decision.

We propose five alternate sites: in front of the Paul Green Theatre; in the rock garden between Hanes Art Center and the Ackland Art Museum (we understand that the art department would prefer that they not be placed there, we also understand that the space is not under their control); in the area between Fetzer Gymnasium and Carmichael Auditorium; between Sitterson and Phillips halls; or in front of the Law School. We think that these sites give the Building and Grounds Committee a good

starting point for alternate site selection. We understand that the procedure suggested by the chancellor is a departure from the committee's normal process of approval, rather than selection, of sites.

Obviously we feel that moving the statues is extremely important and of some urgency. We would request that the committee meet on this subject sometime before the regularly scheduled meeting of Dec. 4.

We appreciate your consideration of this issue. We hope that the chancellor will make a final decision on the statues new location before we leave for Winter Break. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us either at the student government office (2-5201) or at my home.

MATTHEW F. HEYD
 Junior
 History

VANESSA VAN ORNAM
 Graduate
 German

DANA CLINTON LUMSDEN
 Junior
 Political Science/Russian Studies

Letters Policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. We attempt to print as many letters to the editors as space permits. When writing letters, please follow these guidelines:

- If you want your letter published, please sign and date it. No more than two signatures please.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced.
- Please include such vital statistics as your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.
- If you have a title that is relevant to your letter's subject, please include it.

- The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

- Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union annex.

W. MICHAEL CALDWELL
 Sophomore
 Political Science

Gantt's supporters voted for real values

To the editors:
 D. Stephen Norton states that six more years of Jesse Helms prove to him that "there is still hope for North Carolina." Hope for what? Maintaining a commitment to racism, sexism, homophobia and a lack of concern for any issue other than flagburning and NEA funding?

Norton may be quivering over the prospect of a "country of 17 million people" poised to overrun ours of 230 million, as well as the "spread of liberalism [that] threatens to engulf our state." But I'm a lot more concerned about the fact