

National group wants traditional curriculum, stirs controversy

Editor's note: This is the second of a four-part series examining the rise of "politically correct" thinking.

By Kyle York Spencer
Staff Writer

When a new chapter of the National Association of Scholars held their first meeting last month at the State University of New York at Binghamton, members expected an informative lecture on freedom of speech in Eastern Europe. They did not expect their meeting to become the sight of a protest involving over 200 stick-carrying students who likened the group to the Ku Klux Klan. Despite members' claims that the organization is not controversial, the presence of NAS chapters on college campuses across the country has spurred heated debates. It has sharply split university departments and has created bitter rivalries among faculty members. Here at UNC, a private discussion about the dispute brought tears to the eyes of one professor, and at Duke University, the debate involved the chairman of the English department who recently resigned. The NAS is a national organization devoted to preserving traditional curriculum.

The association platform states that it opposes the notion that the present canon "excludes women, minorities and non-western cultures." It denies "the idea that students will be discouraged by not encountering more works by members of their own race, sex or ethnic group" and believes that even if this were the case, the fact "would not justify adding inferior works." In many ways, the NAS is a reactionary group, responding to what members term the "politicization of academia," said James Gouinlock, a philosophy professor at Emory University and the president of the Association of Scholars in Georgia. Gouinlock is appalled at the use of curriculum on college campuses to promote certain goals. The trend, according to Gouinlock, is contributing to the deterioration of academic life and culture. The NAS would like to prevent the works of women and minorities from entering the canon when such works are not included because of their quality, but to make a political statement, said

Richard Sawyer, associate director of the NAS's headquarters. NAS opponents argue that the academic world is inherently political. Whether professors acknowledge it or not, they enter the classroom with a set of values, beliefs and ideas that they convey to students. The decision to teach the work of a woman or a traditionally accepted work of a male is a statement in itself, said David Halperin, an MIT professor of literature. "There is no point in wishing the political nature of these choices will go away," Halperin said. "We live in an already politicized culture. Once one understands this, the question becomes what is the most decent way to behave." But many, including Sawyer, believe the real issue is censorship. He says discouraging free speech and thought will result in "something that reflects a bland, one-colored, one-dimensional society." "Professors and college administrators are seeking to impose the kind of straitjackets of freedom that people in Eastern Europe are trying to oppose,"

Sawyer said. NAS opponents view this "censorship" in a very different light. They say such terms are misnomers serving only to instill fear and misunderstanding. For them, restrictions on speech represent an increased sensitivity on American campuses, something they say is long due. They speak of "politically correct" talk as liberating, not restrictive. For instance, today's black students have been alerted to racism in the classroom. They are now allowed to take offense and even report a professor who makes racist jokes or comments, said Elizabeth Clark, a Duke religion professor. Halperin likens these restrictions to the ones imposed in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. When the act was passed, restaurant owners no longer had the freedom to turn a black person away from their lunch counter. A basic freedom to some, according to Halperin, is an interference of freedom to others. With the growing internationalization of scholarship, Clark says attempts to broaden Euro-centric curriculum is crucial. And she acknowledges the im-

portance of studying literature from Latin America and Africa. In fact, she argues that to ignore these fields of study is nothing short of poor scholarship. "It's derelict on the part of professors who don't make themselves familiar with new developments," she said. **Marriott** posed of seven faculty and staff members and seven students. "We will be one of the groups providing our input on who we think is the most suitable for the food-service contracts," he said. Committee members will try to make their recommendation by the end of the semester, he said. Jennifer McKay, food-service advisory committee member, said members had only a general idea of the process used to select a new vendor. "We serve as an advisory board," she said. "We don't get to say who gets the contract, but we can recommend who we think would best serve the needs of the community." Tufts said the length of time the new

contract would cover was uncertain because of different contract extension possibilities. "The current contract was for three years, and there were two one-year renewal periods which the University exercised," he said. Chris Derby, Carolina Dining Services director, said that Marriott would reapply for the contract, but he could not comment on any service changes the company would propose because that could provide other applicants with an advantage. The dining service contract includes Lenoir and Chase dining halls, three campus snack units, food service at the Friday Center and catering.

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Campus Calendar

TUESDAY
Noon: The Institute of Latin American Studies presents a brown bag lunch talk on "Doing History: A Methodical Excursion into Mexican and Bolivian Archives" by Lolita Gutierrez Brockington, from the Department of History, 210 Union.
4 p.m. Come to the general information meeting on applying to graduate schools in the arts and sciences in Gerrard.
5 p.m. Rising Seniors: Interested in applying next fall for Rhodes, Marshall, and Churchill Scholarships for graduate study in Great Britain? Come to the meeting today in Gerrard to find out more.
FREE VEGETARIAN DINNER: Homemade meals — all are welcome! Come to McCorkle Place (Franklin Street across from the post office) until 7 p.m. Sponsored by the UNC Vegetarian Society. 5:30 p.m. Psi Chi is holding its Spring Inductions tonight in 204 Union. Old and new members, remem-

ber to bring a covered dish for the potluck dinner following the inductions and elections for next year's officers!
The Asian Students Association will have its last meeting of the semester in 206 Union. There is a mandatory committee chair and officers meeting at 5 p.m.
6 p.m. The RAMS group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets tonight in Chase Dining Room B. All interested people are welcome.
The Wesley Foundation, the Methodist Student Group, will hold its last regular meeting for the semester tonight. Dinner will be followed by a self-esteem workshop. Also, thanks goes to all those students who helped the workteam raise money on the Teeter-Toter this weekend!
7 p.m. Need a break from the end-of-semester crunch? Take your mind off your problems (for an hour at least) at the last Pre-Law Club meeting of the

semester in 206 Union. All are welcome!
8 p.m. Carolina Indian Circle will hold its last meeting of the year in 205 Union. All members and interested persons are encouraged to attend.
ATTENTION SENIORS AND UNDERCLASSMEN!
The Carolina Bedrace was once again postponed due to bad weather. It is rescheduled for today in the Pit 11 a.m.-2 p.m. It's not too late to register! All T-shirt money and/or donations benefit the IFC Homeless Shelter. Help the Senior Class make a difference — participate, watch and have fun!
ITEMS OF INTEREST
International Student/Scholar Orientation Counselor applications are available at the International Center. Undergraduate and graduate students who are willing to return to Chapel Hill Wednesday,

August 14 and who would like to assist new foreign students in their orientation and adjustment to UNC should apply. The International Center is located in the Union next to Great Hall.
Anyone interested in singing in the UNC Opera Theatre Workshop, next semester, fall, 1991, should contact director Terry Rhodes immediately. Casting decisions for the fall production (with orchestra) will be made before the end of this semester. Call 962-2270, 962-1039 or 933-8806.
The Carolina Union Forum Committee will hold an interest meeting at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 25 in 206 Union. We will discuss speakers for 1991-92.
Witness something powerful in the Pit Friday at 12:30. The Ebony Readers will present a preview of their Spring Production. Beware! The content may blow your mind into the 21st century!
The Ebony Readers Onyx Theatre will present their Spring Concert Dramatic Production at 7 p.m.

April 26 and 27 in the Cabaret. Admission is free. Beware ... the subject matter is something powerful!
All Big Buddies!! Come by the Campus Y and fill out either a Returning Big Buddy form or a Program Evaluation Form by April 26. This is mandatory!!
Seniors and Graduate Students who have accepted jobs are requested to complete a UCPS Employment Survey form, available in 211 Hanes. Those still seeking jobs may make an appointment to see a UCPS counselor (call 962-6507) and may call the Job Hot Line (962-CPPS) to hear current job openings.
Tar Heel Recycling Program, TARP, announces permanent drop-off sites at Hinton-James, Ehringhaus, and Graham and between FLOB and Lineberger building. The mobile drop-off site for today is the cement pad on the corner of Manning and Morrison Drives for newspaper, glass and aluminum cans.

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