

Peace College to become coed, change its name

By Stirling Little
Staff Writer

Alumni and students of a private women's college in Raleigh say a decision by administrators to admit male students next fall is the last straw in a string of significant changes to the historic institution.

Administrators of Peace College, a 154-year-old private university that has traditionally only admitted women as full-time students, announced the admission policy changes this summer.

They will also change the institution's name to William Peace

University after its founder. In response to the new policies, some students and alumni organized a group called the "Preserve Peace College Campaign."

E.V. Watson, an alumna of Peace and an active member of the group, said she has worked with dissatisfied students to organize and hold protests — the first of which occurred Monday, the first day of classes at the university.

"We are doing this to maintain the legacy of Peace College," she said.

In a statement acknowledging the protests, Peace administrators

said they remain committed to the admission policy changes.

"Please know that the decision has been made; it will not be reversed," the statement said.

The group also created a petition to remove Debra Townsley, the new president of the school, who began serving last August.

According to the petition, Townsley has enacted a number of other changes to the school throughout the course of the past year, such as dismantling the alumni organization and eliminating a number of majors.

Members of the Board of

Trustees of Peace College stated in a press release they were "still unanimously in support of Dr. Debra Townsley."

Watson said the alumni and student protests were not allowed on campus, and instead took place near the front entrance.

"When I spoke to Raleigh police on Friday, they informed me that it is private property and that we could be arrested for going on campus," she said.

Peace administrators said in a statement that they prohibited protests on campus after consulting the Raleigh Police Department.

"It's not about the guys, it's about the lies."

A slogan used by Peace College students while protesting the college's decision to go coed

Cricket McCoy, assistant director of admissions at Meredith College — one of the three remaining universities in the state that is exclusively female — said in an email Meredith remains committed to its status as a women's college.

Watson said the protest group's top priority is spurring a change in the school's administration,

which she said has enacted new policies without alumnae or student input.

"One of the students came up with a slogan yesterday that sums it up pretty well — 'It's not about the guys, it's about the lies.'"

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

GAY MARRIAGE

FROM PAGE 1

other was cheesy and pathetic," he said. "He got me sick and then took care of me for that entire week, and then we decided, 'Hey, we like each other.'"

They entered the wedding contest along with more than 40 other same-sex couples last year. In October, they learned they had won a December wedding in Sweden.

The distance wasn't an issue, even though friends and family

couldn't attend, because traveling would have been an obstacle anywhere they could have had the ceremony.

"Ours would have been a destination wedding by default," Landreth said.

Landreth said the measure would hold symbolic weight if it passed, even if it wouldn't change anything in practice.

"At some basic level, it's just a constant reminder that you're not of value to the state. It feels like we're playing marriage or some inferior version of what the gov-

ernment recognizes as right," he said. "A part of me still thinks of us as engaged."

But while trying to work toward getting a place of their own, Landreth said his income is much more important than his legal marital status.

"Ultimately, I need money a lot more than I need to be recognized as married at 23 years old," he said. "But it would be nice to have that happen."

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ALDERMEN

FROM PAGE 1

to take up the issue this month.

Ferrel Guillory, the director of the Program on Public Life, said Carrboro's resolution will have little impact on state policy. He said the Board of Aldermen has adopted similar resolutions in the past.

"The legislature can do much more than symbolism — they act," he said. "Carrboro can't enact anything."

Guillory said the bill might have been proposed by

Republicans to bring conservative voters to the polls.

N.C. Rep. Dale Folwell, R-Forsyth, said he supports the amendment because it will give voters a chance to make it harder to overturn the law defining marriage as heterosexual.

"It's not about the way somebody chooses to live their lifestyle — how does it affect people, other than what they are already doing?"

Ted Gellar-Goad, a graduate student at UNC who is in a domestic partnership, said that lack of effect marks the bill as a

political move.

"My marriage is already not recognized," he said. "They're banning something that's already banned."

Aldermwoman Lydia Lavelle said she opposes the bill's broad language, and Coleman said he worries the amendment could hurt the local economy.


"International companies that are very sophisticated are looking for places ... that will treat their workers equally," he said.

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BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 1

Hatchell said. "She helps us with her abilities, and in return we train her with how we do things and help her become a better coach."

That same sort of trade was made nine years ago when Hatchell added Smith to her staff.

While Smith served as assistant, the Tar Heels compiled a 257-54 record, made the NCAA Tournament every season and won four ACC titles.

It was during her playing career, though, when Smith truly established her legacy at UNC, and her No. 23 jersey now hangs from the rafters at Carmichael Arena.

In her four years, Smith accrued 2,094 points and 1,200 rebounds — both top-five UNC totals.

And in the 1994 NCAA championship win on March 29, Smith took perhaps the greatest shot in the history of the program.

Down 59-57 to Louisiana Tech with 7/10 of a second left on the clock, Smith unleashed a three-pointer that Hatchell half-jokingly called "the second greatest miracle to ever happen on Easter Sunday."

But despite all the history and all the years Smith has called UNC home, both she and Hatchell knew a day would come when she would have to leave the nest.

And when the Elon position opened, the timing felt right.

"I feel like I had a great career there at UNC, but it was time for me to spread my wings and go in a different direction," Smith said. "And I knew for the last couple of years that I wanted to give head coaching an opportunity ... I'm looking forward to hopefully doing what we did at Carolina when I was there in my playing days."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.

CENTERS

FROM PAGE 1

sources.

The Carolina Women's Center lost the ability to maintain its HAVEN Program as a result of the latest round of cuts.

According to the center's website, HAVEN is a campus-wide initiative to increase support for student survivors of violent and abusive relationships.

"It's hard to no longer be a part of something you helped create because you don't have the time or resources," said Donna Bickford, director of the center.

The Office of the Dean of Students and Counseling and Wellness Services, which have helped support HAVEN in the past, will now take it over completely, Bickford said.

Over the past three years, the women's center has survived more than a 60 percent budget cut. It was dealt a 32 percent cut from last year.

Cuts slashed the center's library budget to zero, preventing it from

updating the materials in its reading and resource room that primarily focused on gender-related issues, Bickford said.

"When you compromise our ability to do work, you make it harder for us to promote the topics that we do," Bickford said.

Although many of the centers affected by budget cuts promote discussion of issues such as diversity, racial and gender equity and minority issues, Tresolini said cuts were apportioned regardless of a center's relation to these topics.

"It was more about structuring the overall cut to preserve all of these centers," Tresolini said.

The University still places a high priority on diversity, Tresolini said, and did the best it could to minimize the impact that budget cuts would have on programs, including ones dealing with diversity issues.

"The good news is, we didn't lose any of these centers or institutes," she said.

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