

Rashad McCants speaks out



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Former UNC men's basketball player Rashad McCants addressed his academic achievements while at UNC on June 12 in an interview with ESPN.

McCants said he took 'paper classes' while at UNC

By Pat James and Paige Ladisic
Senior Writers

This article previously appeared in an earlier edition of The Daily Tar Heel. It has been updated and edited for space.

In the time since the interview with "Outside the Lines" on June 6, Rashad McCants has appeared again on ESPN as well as in interviews on Sirius XM College Sports Nation to talk about his experiences with academics at UNC.

JUNE 12 — Former UNC men's basketball player Rashad McCants interviewed with ESPN's "Outside the Lines" in June and claimed he took many "paper classes," a combination of independent study classes and classes that never met, within the recently renamed Department of African and Afro-American Studies (AFAM).

And McCants, who played on the 2005 national championship-

winning team, said he believes Williams knew his players were enrolling in the "paper classes."

In an email to all students and faculty in June, Chancellor Carol Folt said the University would refrain from commenting on specific reports or allegations until former federal prosecutor Kenneth Wainstein's investigation is released. The University retained Wainstein to investigate academic misconduct in the former Department of African and Afro-American Studies in February.

According to transcripts obtained by "Outside the Lines," more than 50 percent of classes McCants took at UNC were within the African-American studies department. In three years at UNC, he took 16 AFAM courses and only 10 courses in other departments. Many courses he took were labeled independent study.

"You're there to make revenue

for the college," McCants said in the interview. "You're there to put fans in the seats. You're there to bring prestige to the university by winning games."

Dr. Lewis Margolis, a professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, said McCants deserves credit for speaking out about his experiences at UNC.

"I think we have much evidence that educational compromises have been made," said Margolis, who is often involved in the discussion of college athletics. "The fact that an athlete has come out and confirmed that is not surprising. I think it's to his credit to acknowledge that this went on. Too often the athletes are silent, have been silent throughout this entire controversy."

The 16 members of the 2005 national championship team, excluding McCants, issued a statement of their own after his

interview — saying their academic experience at UNC differed from their former teammate's.

"With conviction, each one of us is proud to say that we attended class and did our own academic work," the statement said.

Deborah Stroman, director of sport entrepreneurship at UNC, said she was surprised McCants never spoke up while at UNC.

"Once you realize you did not receive what you thought the University owed you, why didn't you speak up, especially as a confident athlete?" she said.

In an email, Meghan Durham, a spokeswoman for the NCAA, said it is the responsibility of the University to determine if academic misconduct has occurred and if it should be reported to the NCAA.

Contact the desk editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.

New sexual assault policy to be in place

The Sexual Assault Task Force created the policy and will send it to the Chancellor.

By Bradley Saacks
University Editor

After meeting for the first time 15 months ago, the Sexual Assault Task Force plans to have the new campus-wide policy on sexual assault in place at the start of the academic year.

The task force, which is led by Carolina Women's Center Director Christi Hurt, met for the final time in mid-June to make draft recommendations.

"Where we were a year ago, I never would have guessed we would have created such a comprehensive report that specifically tailors to the needs of our Chapel Hill community," Hurt said at the summer meeting.

The longest discussion revolved around consent for sexual activity, specifically when one or both parties are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"Absence of a 'no' does not mean consent, the presence of a 'yes' means consent," Hurt said.

Hurt said consent cannot be given when either party is incapacitated, but the task wrestled with determining a point before incapacitation where a person is able to give consent while intoxicated.

"It feels to me that we are trying to catch a greased pig with (consent when intoxicated), because it comes down to the intent of an individual," said Allen O'Barr, director of counseling and wellness services.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Winston Crisp said at the meeting the matter could be discussed for much longer, but wanted the task force to be able to provide a new policy for students in the fall.

"I fear that if we try to come up with a perfectly drawn line (for consent before incapacitation), we are going to be here for 20 more years," Crisp said.

The task force's work will be scrutinized even more closely now after Sen. Claire McCaskill released her report on colleges' handling of sexual assault.

The report, which was based on a survey that 440 colleges replied to, did not specifically name UNC but highlighted the problem of sexual assault handling on campuses nationwide.

The report supplied grim statistics about the state of universities' handling on student sexual assault cases, including 20 percent of reporting schools allowing the athletic department to have oversight in sexual assault cases involving athletes.

Both Hurt and Title IX Compliance Officer Howard Kallem said UNC's athletic department did not oversee any sexual assault cases to their knowledge.

After the task force makes its final edits to the new policy draft, it will be submitted to Chancellor Carol Folt and her own task force for approval and implementation.

Hurt said she is confident the policy will be in place for the beginning of the academic year.

"I think we are all excited to get rid of the policy we currently have and give our students a policy we are all proud of," she said.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Local candidates prepare for November

The May 6 primary led to a runoff election on July 15.

By Jonathan Moyer
Summer City Editor

The primary elections in Orange County took place on May 6, and a runoff was held on July 15.

Orange County Sheriff

On May 6, the sheriff election led to two candidates, Charles Blackwood and David Caldwell Jr., winning the two highest numbers of votes and leading to a runoff election on July 15.

On runoff election day, Blackwood won with 53 percent and a margin of only 540 votes, according to unofficial election

results.

He said he was confident he could take on the sheriff's office with the people who had supported him to that point. He also said it was important to expand to those who weren't behind him during the runoff.

Caldwell said just because he lost the election doesn't mean he doesn't still have work to do.

"We still have a lot of work to do, and it can be done outside of the sheriff's department," he said. "We still have a lot of people who need help."

Blackwood will run unopposed in November.

Register of Deeds

Mark Chilton was elected Register of Deeds for Orange County and campaigned on the promise of signing same-sex mar-

riage licenses.

Chilton said he was aware of media coverage of the same-sex marriage issue and acknowledges its importance, but he said he ran for office because that's what he wanted to do, and he had many other plans for the office.

He said because no Republican candidate was in the race, winning in May was essentially winning the position outright. Chilton will not take office until December.

County Commissioners

Earl McKee, vice chairman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, won the primary for the District 2 seat. He said the re-election validated stands he took during his past three years as vice chairman.

One of these stands was his opposition to the proposed

Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project. McKee said the town needs to focus on improving the transit it already has.

"I will continue to oppose the light rail for the immediate future until and unless we build out a comprehensive public transit system for those who need it the most," he said.

Other stances McKee had taken focused on narrowing the wealth gap and providing jobs for everyone from those with a Ph.D. to high school graduates.

Barry Jacobs, incumbent chairman of the board of commissioners, won the primary for the at-large seat. He was not available for comment the night of the elections.

Both candidates will run unopposed in November.

Contact the desk editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

Sutton's Drug Store closes pharmacy, soda counter lives on

John Woodard decided to sell his pharmacy to CVS in June but keep the shop open.

By Jonathan Moyer
Summer City Editor

This article previously appeared in an earlier edition of The Daily Tar Heel. It has been updated and edited for space.

JUNE 19 — When John Woodard told customers the pharmacy in Sutton's Drug Store was closing down, he got a lot of concern that the entire store would be going out of business.

"You can't shut this place down," the owner said, pointing at the soda shop counter.

After customers were told they could still get their prescriptions filled at the nearby CVS, they congratulated Woodard on the decision. He said they were just happy they could still come and eat.

"When you mention Sutton's Drug Store, it always revolves around the food," Woodard said.

CVS acquired Sutton's pharmacy in a deal that was finalized June 17. CVS will fill all of Sutton's existing prescriptions, and Woodard said he will also work in

the pharmacy there.

Woodard said his decision was the result of recent changes in healthcare that are making it difficult for small drug stores to make money by filling prescriptions. He said trying to compete with big companies would be a death sentence.

"With health care changing like it is, everything going corporate, it's just been so difficult to meet the requirements for the insurance companies," he said.

Woodard said his decision came after 37 years as the pharmacist of Sutton's, during which his business outlasted other corporate drug stores on Franklin Street, including Revco, a drug store company bought by CVS in 1997.

He said now it's his turn to give in to the competition.

"We've withstood the big boys long enough, and now the circle's come around," he said.

Despite having to close down his pharmacy, he said he was happy CVS was so invested in making the process easier. He said they even agreed to deliver prescriptions in order to keep customers.

Although the transition was smooth, Woodard said it was hard for him to part with the pharmacy.

"It is probably one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make," he said.

It wasn't easy for other employees either. Don Pinney, manager at Sutton's, said there was something comforting about working with Woodard every morning for 34 years.

"You ever had a security blanket?" Pinney said he knew Woodard would leave as soon as he started talking about it. The store will focus on selling more merchandise to make up for the loss of the pharmacy.

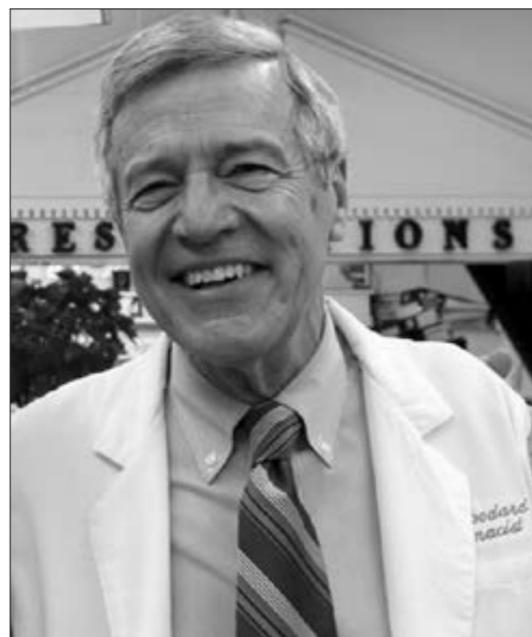
Genny Wrenn, manager at the Shrunken Head Boutique, has been coming to Sutton's for breakfast and lunch every day for 45 years. Woodard even attended Wrenn's wedding. She said she'll miss seeing him in his white pharmacist's coat and thinks people will have trouble getting used to his absence.

"It's definitely gonna be a big change," Wrenn said. "Chapel Hill's not good for change."

Woodard said in his decades at the pharmacy, he's worked anywhere from 60 to 80 hours a week. Now he said he can golf more and help his wife with her real estate business.

"I'm looking forward to getting out and enjoying more free time," he said.

Contact the desk editor at city@dailytarheel.com.



DTH FILE PHOTO

John Woodard, former pharmacist of Sutton's Drug Store, announced the closing of the pharmacy section on June 19.