

RECKFORD LECTURE



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Chantal Mouffe, professor of political theory at the University of Westminster in England, was the guest speaker for the 17th Mary Stevens Reckford Memorial Lecture in European Studies. She has written four books on the politics of the European Union. The lecture was established in 1990 in honor of the late Mary Stevens Reckford.

Students address law library safety

BY CLAIRE MCNEILL
STAFF WRITER

Should they stay — or stay away?

That was the question Thursday inside the Kathrine R. Everett Law Library, where 70 law students and alumni gathered to propose safety measures that would prevent further instances of trespassing.

The meeting, hosted by the Student Bar Association, came in response to a Feb. 3 incident in which the Department of Public Safety received an anonymous call concerning harassment in the law library.

Upon investigating, police found the man in question to have several outstanding warrants and arrested and detained him.

An official contacted the DPS again on Feb. 4 when two men picked through the law school's refrigerator. Police issued the men warnings prohibiting them from being on the campus for two years.

Lace Wayman, second-year class president and leader of the forum, said the meeting's goal was to assess students' opinions about safety and public access to the building.

Students said the law school could require users to present a OneCard to enter or remain after midnight, as the Undergraduate Library does.

Others suggested a building sign-in or buzzer system.

Students also proposed a fixed schedule bus system in place of the continually running shuttle that currently transports a small number of riders at a time.

But students also bore in mind that some measures could cause class-based prejudices against homeless or poor people who use the library.

"When I started hearing that some people wanted to close off the library to the non-law students or specifically homeless people, to me that seemed like overreactions," said Joe Polich, a second-year law student who attended the forum.

Brandi Jones, a third-year law student, said she thinks students should make a distinction between feeling unsafe and feeling uncomfortable around outsiders — especially those who look poor.

"I just am worried that the mere presence of non-law students is going to become punishable in some way," she said.

Wayman said the issue was not with homeless people, but rather with people using the library in illegitimate ways.

She said she doesn't want the issue to turn into a conversation about socioeconomic concerns because the real concern is safety.

Randy Young, DPS spokesman, said campus police only responds to complaints or suspicious behavior.

"We don't single out anybody," he said.

Young said the last few weeks are not an accurate representation of the number of incidents on campus.

"It's very short term," he said, adding that no place on campus is immune from crime.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Students marrying for lower tuition

Website offers matchmaking service

BY JASMINE CHEN
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day store displays remind us love and money are sometimes linked, but the website whypaytuition.com tries to separate the two.

Why Pay Tuition is a matchmaking service that facilitates "marriages of convenience" between university students so they can pay lower tuition fees.

Students who are married might qualify for more financial benefits, including improved need-based financial aid and in-state tuition.

"If a student is married, they are automatically considered independent for financial aid purposes," said Tabatha Turner, senior associate director of need-based aid and compliance at UNC.

To give students a degree of protection, the website also encourages signing wedding contracts and pre-nuptial agreements.

Married students do not have to count their parents' income as their own on FAFSA forms, she said, which might help with financial aid.

Turner said many students get married to increase their financial credibility.

"When two students marry, it is likely they do not have a lot of assets," Turner said.

"It certainly would benefit them financial aid-wise."

Marriage might also be of some help to gain in-state resident status.

North Carolina law decrees that, among other conditions, a person must maintain a 12-month residence prior to the term for which in-state tuition is requested. This is where marriage can help.

According to the N.C. State

Residence Classification Manual, the non-resident spouse "may count the length of time the resident spouse has been domiciled in North Carolina for purposes of satisfying the 12-month requirement for in-state tuition."

"It seems crazy to get married for that purpose," said Haley Herman, a UNC freshman from Ohio. She pays more as an out-of-state student.

"If I had gone with most of my other options, I would be paying even more," she said.

But out-of-state tuition is not as cheap at other schools as it is at UNC.

University of California students are facing a different predicament after the 2009 out-of-state tuition hikes throughout the public university system.

In this system, one way that students can qualify for in-state residency status is by establishing financial independence.

And establishing financial independence might be satisfied through marriage, said Michael Basile, the residence deputy at the Office of the Registrar at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

The New York Times reported identifying nine students who married in-state students to claim residency at University of California-Berkeley

Michelle Pujals, a UNC sophomore, questioned the effectiveness of such marriages.

"What if everything goes wrong?" she said.

"What if it doesn't go according to plan?"

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

Freshmen abstaining from alcohol, study finds

BY EMILY BOOKER
STAFF WRITER

The Friday night keg party might not be the destination of choice for as many freshmen as before, according to a recent study.

Outside the Classroom, a non-profit organization focused on tackling high-risk drinking, found the percentage of freshmen abstaining from alcohol increased from 38 percent to 62 percent since 2006.

The organization conducted a survey of more than half a million high school seniors nationwide who were required to participate in online alcohol education programs through their future universities.

The survey was confidential, said Brandon Busteded, the organization's

founder and CEO.

The students were asked whether they had consumed an alcoholic beverage in the past two weeks, in the past 30 days, or in the past year.

"When you see students reporting no alcohol in the past two weeks, there's several of them you can say are truly abstainers — like they don't drink at all — and the rest of them you can say are light drinkers at best, or might have drank heavily once in the past year," he said.

UNC Assistant Dean of Students Dean Blackburn found these results to be in agreement with the University's findings.

UNC requires all incoming freshmen to take an online alcohol

education program through mystudentbody.com, as well as a national survey through the Cooperative Institutional Research Program, Blackburn said.

College drinking has been measured for the past 30 years and there has been limited change until now, Busteded said.

Although he said he was cautious to attribute the statistics to any one factor, he said the ailing economy might have played a role.

"Between the students having to pay more and parents making a bigger sacrifice, there's a lot of reason to believe these students are saying, 'Look, I've got this opportunity, I can't afford to piss it away, literally,'"

Blackburn also credited some of

the decrease in alcohol consumption to better education about high-risk drinking.

He said UNC has made an effort to inform students of the legal and academic consequences of alcohol use at freshman orientation.

Caitlyn Dixon, a freshman biochemistry major, said that although her close friends, who abstained in high school, have begun to use alcohol, they recognize there are powerful incentives not to partake.

"The economy has a big effect, it is expensive to drink, and local authorities have began to crack down."

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