Female unlikely for Morehead honor

by Bunky Flagler
Staff Writer

Last in a three-part series.

Local citizens hopeful of striking a blow against sexual discrimination are fighting a losing battle against the Morehead Foundation.

Ann Hollander, 17, first female nominee for the undergraduate Morehead award doesn't have a chance. She will not be granted even a first interview because she is a woman.

"According to the rules and regulations, she's not eligible," George Coxhead, chairman of the Orange County Morehead selection committee, said Wednesday night. He refuses to consider her a nominee.

The local chaper of the National Organization for Women (NOW) has not taken a stance yet, but plans to study the feasibility of a law suit, Miriam Slifkin, NOW president, said.

But winning a case against the private foundation based on John Motley Morehead's trust fund of approximately $35 million will not be easy. It may be impossible, Daniel H. Pollitt, Kenan professor of law, said Thursday.

"The discrimination against women is bad, but it's within their (the foundation's) rights. That's my unfortunate conclusion," he said.

"The Morehead Foundation and the University are completely separate," Hugh G. Chatham, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Morehead Foundation, said.

"Spiritually, they are closely connected," Dr. William Wells, former chairman of the Central Selection Committee, said. "Legally, they are not connected."

This is not "state action" in the meaning of the 14th amendment, which prohibits any state from denying equal protection under the law, Pollitt said. "Private individuals can do it, but not states.

"Since it is not a branch of the University, but a private organization, they are free to discriminate against blacks, women, long hairs—anybody they please.

"The University and the Morehead are correct. They are separate," Pollitt said.

UNC owns the $7 million Morehead complex and the land on which it is built. The Morehead Foundation paid for and built it, however. The trustees gave UNC the Planetarium in 1949 and the new wing in 1971 only under certain conditions, Bob Williams, UNC Property Office legal counsel, said.

According to a July 19, 1971 agreement, "the Foundation retains and reserves from the state, and the state grants to the Foundation, the following rights, powers and privileges: "the Foundation will have the sole and exclusive use, occupancy and control" of certain areas of the Morehead Plantetarium building. The agreement also provides for non-exclusive use of certain other areas and first-call on such areas as the new banquet hall.

John Wester, of the Charlotte law firm that is legal counsel to the foundation, agreed. "In effect, in this agreement, they retained ownership over the area where the offices are."

In doing so, they retained the right to discriminate, Pollitt said.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) is nonetheless interested in studying the Morehead Foundation. "It sounds like something we'd like to look into," said William Chiappini, equal opportunity specialist of the higher education branch of HEW, Atlanta, Ga.

"HEW will be coming to college campuses after January looking at all facilities, and of course, this will be one we'll check—scholarships," he said.

The University has an obligation to comply with the dictates of Title IX of the Equal Education Act, newly-enacted legislation that prohibits discrimination of any kind at any state or federally funded school.

Chiappini is interested in the Morehead Foundation's use of the UNC Campus Mail Service funded by state money and manned by state employes.

"The foundation is part of the University," Sylvester Brooks, Campus Mail supervisor, said. He delivers and picks up both U.S. mail and inter-campus mail from the Foundation free of charge.

"The mail is certainly something we'd question," the HEW official said.

Slifkin and others have accused the UNC Office of Admissions of saving slots for Morehead scholars in the freshman class.

"There is no allocation of space for the Morehead program," Richard G. Cashwell, director of undergraduate admissions, said. "We do know normally how many we'll get, and they are assured of getting in if qualified."

The number of scholars comes from the freshman male quota set before most applications come in, he said. This has nothing to do with the female quota.

"As far as we're concerned, they're no different from any other student," he said. "They have to meet the same admissions standards."

Cashwell said Admissions has never turned down a Morehead scholar, but nominees, if ineligible for some reason, have been rejected.

The Morehead Foundation's sexual discrimination has nothing to do with Affirmative Action, Douglass Hunt, UNC vice chancellor and Affirmative Action officer, said.

"This may be a problem under other legislation, but I am not clear that it is an Affirmative Action problem," he said.

But Dr. Barbara Schnorrenberg, coordinator of University Women for Affirmative Action, disagrees.

"HEW is interested in student affairs of various kinds," she said. "Perhaps Mr. Hunt is taking too narrow a view of Affirmative Action."

"On the surface of it, there's enough evidence to establish a case against the foundation," Chiappini said, but he refused to make any decision. Proving state action would be difficult.

Though disappointed at Ann Hollander's plight, Slifkin said she doesn't relish a law suit. "We don't want to cause trouble," she said. "We just want to see that right is done, that women are treated fairly."

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Staff photo by Bill Wrenn

Tar Heels win again; story on page four

Commentator Brinkley thinks Nixon ought to be impeached

by Nancy Kochuk
Staff Writer

Commentator David Brinkely said in an address here Wednesday night he believes President Nixon should be impeached.

He said, however, that the House "does not have the courage" to impeach him. Brinkley added that Nixon's promise to turn over the tapes to the courts has taken most of the steam out of whatever move for impeachment there has been.

Brinkley said excessive concentration of power, not the acquisition of money, was the essential motive in the Watergate scandal.

"The arrogant egotistical use of power has abused the trust and confidence of the American people in a truly outrageous way," he said.

Historically speaking, Brinkley said too much power and money has always been in the White House. He cited Johnson's escalation of the Vietnam war and Congress' inability to stop it as an example of this power.

Brinkley said the American public believes most politicians are very powerful liars and incompetents who serve only themselves.

Looking at the current state of affairs from the perspective of other countries, Brinkley said their view of the United States has not changed because of Watergate.

"They tend to think scandal is normal," he said. The American people expect a great deal more from their political leaders than do other countries.

The French, for example, have a "national tendency to trust nobody and believe nothing," he said.

Brinkley said there is no justification for Nixon's firing of special prosecutor Archibald Cox, in response to an audience question. He said Cox was hired, appointed, paid, encouraged, ordered and assigned to investigate a political scandal and he should be allowed to do it.

Nixon changed his mind about turning over the tapes only because he had to, Brinkley said. The outrage was so great, even from conservative Republicans who had been supporting him, that he should not against it.

Politically, Brinkley sees the country generally moving to the right. He said this tendency toward mild conservatism as a source of trouble for the Democrats in 1976. He said if Ted Kennedy or any other "big liberal" receives the Democratic presidential nomination, the Democrats are likely to lose.

Calling the Vietnam war the "single biggest blunder in American history," Brinkley said he did not agree with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Kissinger and Le Duc Tho. He said Kissinger should not have accepted an award for stopping the war that this country started.

David Brinkley

Nixon calls alert

United Press International

WASHINGTON—President Nixon, in an apparently successful attempt to head off threatened unilateral introduction of Soviet troops to the Middle East, ordered a precautionary general alert Thursday for U.S. armed forces around the world.

Within hours after the first public reports of the alert, the Soviet Union told the United Nations it would not insist on sending any of its own troops to police the cease-fire lines in the Middle East.

There was no immediate word, however, on when the alert would be called off. U.S. officials indicated Nixon might want to maintain it for the time being—perhaps until some time Friday—"for diplomatic purposes."

Military officials described the alert, ordered shortly after midnight Thursday, as the most widespread they could recall since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

Thousands of sleeping soldiers, Air Force crews and National Guardsmen were awakened in the pre-dawn hours and ordered to report to their stations. The Strategic Air Command (SAC) placed nuclear bomber crews on the increased alert status. Some men on leave were recalled.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger indicated the U.S. alert was ordered because the Soviet Union placed some of its forces on alert and served notice to Washington of plans to send Russian troops to police the Middle East cease-fire whether or not the United States did so.

The Soviet Union later announced it would not insist on sending its troops to the Middle East.

Weather

TODAY: Sunny and mild. The high is expected in the low to mid 70's. The low tonight is expected in the upper 30's. There is near zero per cent chance of precipitation. Outlook: clear, mild and dry.

UFO 'landing' rumor unfounded

by Chuck Babington
Staff Writer

MOUNT AIRY — Reports that an unidentified flying object struck a barn in rural Surry County Wednesday night were unfounded, but several eyewitnesses, including Sheriff Jim Taylor, said they saw something in the sky near the Buck Shoals Pond.

Taylor met with news reporters in his office around 4 a.m. Thursday and said he saw two bright orange, strange-looking objects moving towards each other in the wooded area near the Ararat River.

Taylor said that as the objects neared each other, "One dropped fast into the trees." The other, "bounced around" for a few seconds and then disappeared also.

Taylor said it was "hard to estimate the size and speed" of the objects.

Deputy John Belton who was also in the sheriff's office said he was the first to answer a call reporting a UFO around 8:45 p.m. Wednesday. He said he saw two red objects, about seven feet long, emitting orange sparkles. The objects hovered in the air, he said, moved vertically, then horizontally, and then were still again.

James Rippey, a friend who accompanied Belton to the area, said he saw the same things that Belton had. Rippey said he was not a native of Surry County and had never seen anything like the strange objects before.

After talking with news reporters, Taylor played a tape-recording of a phone call that his office had received earlier that night from a citizen reporting a "flying saucer".

The tape was not clear, and a high-pitched whine in the background was claimed by some of the onlookers to be noises from the object, but many felt it was just radio feedback.

However, both Belton and Rippey said they had heard "strange noises" when they were viewing the objects. Both men said they were unable to tell where the sounds were coming from.

Ky. miners keep strike vigil

by Bill Welch
and
Greg Turosak
Staff Writers

Third in a series.

HARLAN COUNTY, Ky.—The Brookside mine here lies idle.

Down the hill and outside the entrance, about a dozen striking miners huddle around a coal stove, exchanging the latest news and whittling pieces of cedar. Some are chewing tobacco, others sipping RC Cola.

The group never abandons their vigil, and this week they were joined on Monday and Tuesday by hundreds of miners and sympathizers attending so-called religious revivals, which again have frustrated Eastover Mining Company's attempts to operate the mine.

On Monday, 16 state troopers were on hand to ensure Eastover's attempts to get scabs (strikebreakers) past the pickets and revivalists to work. Only one scab got through.

Police arrested two women at the revival and charged them with disorderly conduct. Belligerant and defiant upon arrest, the two women gave their names as Martha Washington and Betsy Ross and were released under $750 bond each.

Eastover tried again on Tuesday to break the strike, under the increased protection of 50 to 60 state troopers. This time the revival crowd had swelled to 400 people — including striking miners, their wives and families, and about 100 UMW miners from another eastern Kentucky mine in full working gear.

Again only one scab got through. Car windows were smashed, and about 75 of the revivalists received summons to court next Wednesday on contempt charges.

The charges stem from a previous injuction limiting the number of pickets to nine. Their cases will be heard by Special Judge F. Byrd Hogg, who last week jailed 16 men and women for two days on similar charges, before releasing them on $500 bond each.

Few troopers showed up on Wednesday and Thursday. Eastover did not attempt to break the strike, and one former miner said he doubted the company would try again this month. But the troopers will be back if Eastover decides they need them, he added.

Occasional violence continues in Harlan. The county has long been notorious as "Bloody Harlan" for its violent past, and in recent weeks, three persons have been shot at.

Behind the outward struggle, negotiations continue between the miners and Eastover. So far there has been little progress, and after yesterday's session, the talks reportedly were broken off.

Reliable sources here indicate that Eastover plans now to file suit against the union for unfair labor practices.

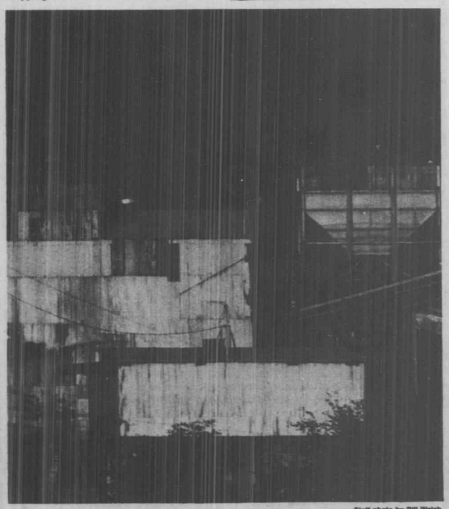
Throughout the negotiations, Eastover has claimed that, if they sign with the UMWA at the Brookside mine, all their other area mines will be required to do the same, a Duke Power spokesman said.

UMW officials disagree. The other Eastover mines have separate contracts with the Southern Labor Union that are good for another year, one spokesman said. A UMW contract at Brookside would not affect those contracts, he added.

Although the Brookside strike has no legal affect on the other mines, some miners agree that everyone in eastern Kentucky is watching the outcome.

They feel that if Brookside goes UMW, eventually all the other mines will want to. "This is the key to all eastern Kentucky," said one union organizer.

Tomorrow: The issues involved.



Staff photo by Bill Welch

Coal processing facility remains closed