

Silent Sam 'strike' crosses a line, says UNC Board of Trustees member

By Lindsay Marchello
Carolina Journal News
Service

RALEIGH — At least 79 teacher assistants and instructors at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill are threatening to withhold grades unless their demands in the Silent Sam controversy are met, local activists say.

A proposal by the university's Board of Trustees to rehouse Silent Sam in a \$5.3 million historical center has been met with protests from students and community activists, but a proposed strike crosses a line, UNC System Board of Governors member Marty Kotis told Carolina Journal.

"When people start saying you have to believe something or we're not going to release your grades unless this is done, they're putting their personal agendas ahead of the students," Kotis said. Kotis has called for swift

action against potential strikers, including their dismissal if they indeed withhold grades.

The Board of Trustees met Monday, Dec. 3, to approve a plan to move the Confederate statue to a historical center to be built on Odum Village, where apartments for graduate students and students with children once stood. The apartments have since been demolished and the property is empty.

Now, the school wants to build a center for history and education to house not only Silent Sam but other artifacts related to the school's long history. The center would cost \$5.3 million to build, have an annual operating cost of \$800,000, and feature a state-of-the-art security system.

Reactions to the proposal were swift. Activists and protesters called the proposed center a "shrine" to the Confederacy. Others argued the university



Silent Sam Statue on the campus of UNC Chapel Hill

should return the statue to McCorkle Place, where it once stood before protestors tore it down Aug. 19. It was then placed in storage.

UNC BOG member Thom Goolsby released a video Dec. 4 calling for the statue's return to its pedestal. The board member called the BOT's plan cowardly.

Protesters gathered that night in opposition. Soon after, activists announced a group of teacher assistants and faculty members have joined a grade strike and promised to withhold more than 2,000 grades unless their demands are met.

The revised list of demands were posted to the activists' website Dec. 6:

- The Board of Trustees should withdraw the proposal to build a \$5.3 million indoor location to house Silent Sam and to create a 40-person mobile force costing at least \$2 million per year. Instead, the statue should remain off campus and the BOG should hold listening sessions in good faith with the community.
- Silent Sam should never return to the campus in any form nor shall a center to its history be built.
- The BOT should disclose the changes made to campus policing and withdraw the proposed security escalations.
- Instead of spending money on rehousing Silent Sam and funding a mobile police force, the university should direct money to building maintenance, increased wages for graduate and campus workers, abolition of fees for all graduate workers, dental insurance for graduate workers, and reduced parking fees for all workers.

If the first demand is met, the participating TAs and instructors would release the grades to the university. Unless all demands are met, the group will continue to protest during the next semester.

Robert Blouin, UNC-Chapel Hill executive vice chancellor and provost, sent a letter to the deans of the school Dec. 6 saying the proposed grade strike is out of bounds and violates the university's instructional responsibilities.

"Our students are entitled to receive their grades in a timely manner," Blouin wrote. "It is especially critical for the students preparing to graduate next Sunday, as well as the thousands of students whose scholarships, grants, loans, visa status, school transfers, job opportunities and military commissions may be imperiled because lack of grades threaten their eligibility."

In the letter, Blouin said he has heard complaints that some instructors have asked their students to take a stand on the strike.

"Such actions have been interpreted as coercion and an exploitation of the teacher-student relationship and in fact are a violation of students' First Amendment rights as well as federal law," Blouin wrote.

Kotis said the university should fire anyone partici-

pating in the grade strike. Not only that, he said they should be ineligible for rehire anywhere in the UNC System.

"When you let an 80 people decide how the flagship university in the system or the entire system is run, that's not democracy. That is extortion. That is terrorism," Kotis said.

While Kotis believes people are free to protest peacefully, he contends the actions of some protesters and outside agitators have necessitated a strong response.

The UNC BOG will discuss the BOT's proposal at the Dec. 14 meeting.

"The buck should stop with the UNC Board of Governors and the question will be if the Board of Governors has the guts to set clear boundaries for reasonable behavior of students and visitors to campus," Kotis said. "And if we don't and we're unwilling to do that, then we're cowards."

LR's Paradine voted National Coach of the Year in Men's Lacrosse

HICKORY, N.C. — In his eighth year at the helm of Lenoir-Rhyne Men's Lacrosse, Head Coach Greg Paradine was named the Division II National Coach of the Year by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) on Friday afternoon. He has been the sole leader of the program since its berth in 2009.

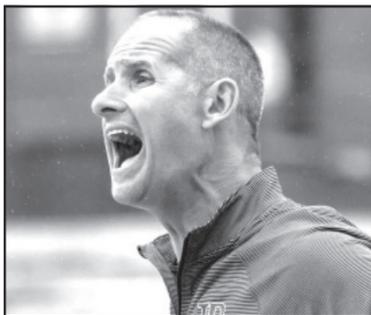
This is only the third National Coach of the Year honor given to a Lenoir-Rhyne Head Coach in school history. Paradine goes into the record books with Clarence Stasavich (Football, 1959) and Todd Starkey (Women's Basketball, 2008-09) on the elite list.

Paradine led a men's lacrosse team that is just a mere eight years old to its best season yet, going 17-3 overall and an undefeated 8-0 record in South Atlantic Conference play. In the second game of the season, LR set the groundwork for a special season when they knocked off No. 1 Limestone, 17-13.

It was a season of unprecedented success as the Bears accomplished two feats in 2018 — a regular season SAC Championship and earning the right to host the National Semifinals.

Under Paradine's watch, the Bears went 9-2 at home, 6-1 on the road and 2-0 in neutral site contests. He also had one player selected as the SAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year, three players receive invites to the 2018 USILA All-Star Game, a quartet of Bears earning NCAA All-America honors and two seniors signed with major league organizations.

In addition to the previous awards, the three-time SAC Coach of the Year earned his latest while having nine players earn All-SAC recognition — SAC Player of the Year, SAC Freshman of the Year, eight first-team selections and one honorable mention team selection.



GREG PARADINE

CVCC plans photography classes in Tayl. and Hickory

Catawba Valley Community College will offer photography classes in Spring 2019 at both the Taylorsville and the Hickory East Campus sites.

Class offerings are:

- **Digital Photography**, Instructor: Robert Dant, January 10 - February 14, 2019, Thursdays, 6:00-8:00PM, East Campus Room 1001. Are you making the best pictures possible with your camera? Learn the operations of a digital camera and what makes digital photography different from traditional film photography. This course introduces digital photo imaging, exploring the use of hardware/software, image capture, and input/output devices. Must bring SLR digital camera to class. Required textbook: *Digital Photography 1,2,3-Taking and Printing Great Pictures*, by Rob Sheppard, which can be purchased at Barnes and Noble or Amazon. Cost: \$75.
- **Photography Basics**, Instructor: Robert Dant, February 21 - March 28, 2019, Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., East Campus Room 1001. This course will cover the basics of manual camera operation. Determining proper exposure, the interplay between aperture & shutter speeds, composi-

tion, photographic techniques, and supporting equipment will be explored. In this course we will use the camera's aperture priority, shutter priority, and manual settings to make proper exposures. After taking this course, a student should be able to photograph a scene to depict it as they desire. An SLR camera that can be manually operated is required. Textbook: *KISS Guide to Photography* by John Garrett is required. Cost: \$70.

• **Digital Photography**, Instructor: Milton Hawes, February 28 - April 4, 2019, Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., CVCC Alexander Center. Come learn the basics to take great pictures with your digital camera. Designed for new users of digital SLR cameras, this class will focus on the fundamentals of digital camera operations. You will be introduced to digital photo imaging, exploring the use of hardware/software, image capture, and input/output devices. Must bring SLR digital camera to class. Cost: \$75.

For more information, please contact the CVCC Continuing Education Office by phone at (828) 327-7037 or by email at ctoney@cvcc.edu.

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Letter to Bethlehem Residents from the Bethlehem Star Committee

The last few months have been an exciting time in Bethlehem as all segments of the community worked together for a common goal. That goal was to provide a new star for our Bethlehem Community as an emblem to recognize the birth of the Christ child and as a reminder for all who pass by about our feelings of hope presented by the Star. The planning, organizing, and construction of a new star has brought together many within our community for this common cause.

The first step was the formation of a raise the star committee in August. Meetings were held with community pastors and other community leaders who helped provide structure to building a new star and the Star lighting program. Churches, clubs, businesses, individuals in and outside the community, and children gave to the star fund. The original goal for the star was 18,000. Over 40,000 dollars in money, materials, and services were provided for this project. These funds will not only pay for the Star, but also create an endowment fund for the operation of the Star and Star lighting program for several years to come. These funds will be managed through a special account at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church. A special gift of \$1,500 was provided to the Bethlehem Ministerial Benevolence Fund. Members of the Raise the Star Committee were both humbled and blessed by the giving of money, services, and materials to make the new star possible.

A plaque will be erected at the base of the star in January with the names of those involved in making the new star possible. The plaque will list the donors and memorials named by donors. This list includes over 300 individuals, businesses, churches, and others who gave from the heart. Anyone whose name was left off the list distributed at the Star Lighting should contact Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church by Monday, December 17. A rail and bronze scripture plaque will also be part of the Star base. Plans also call for new figurines for the manger.

Special recognition goes to these volunteers who donated time, services and materials including:

- Bethlehem Resident Rick Carpenter and Carpenter Decorating for the construction of Star.
- Eric Frye for excavation of the base and landscaping.
- David Land and Land's Electric for installing all electrical service.
- Butch Goble and his crew for concrete work.
- Stowe Crane Service for raising the star.
- Jack Hicks Trucking for live trees and planting trees.
- Howard Williams for construction and erection of the climb proofing of the tower.
- The construction crew of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church who used their expertise to do steel work, assemble the Star, and many other tasks.
- Kenny Starnes for the decorative iron rail for the Star.
- Dave Ross and the congregation at Fellowship Advent Church for the live nativity.
- Donna Reid, director of the community choir that practiced for several months.
- Boy Scout Troop 275 for painting the nativity, building fires, and serving hot chocolate.
- Girl Scouts Troop 12905 for program distribution.
- Betty Hollar for coordinating sale of ornaments constructed by Latt Moretz and the Parlier's.
- Ken Wasmund and Connie Killian for program set-up.
- Don Hefner, Mike Burris, and Sandy Wilkes for tree decorating and grounds work.
- West Alexander Middle School Band director Matt Cochran and band for performing on short notice.
- Fire, Explorers, and Sheriff's Department coordinated by Jeff Davis for safety and parking.
- The Taylorsville Times and Bethlehem Star for generosity with advertising and communicating star information.
- Susan Lydick Greene for work with publicity.
- Margie Oakes for office assistance with accounting and communication.
- Members of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church and youth for cooking, serving, and cleaning up after the hot dog meal.
- Donovan Douglas for Live Streaming the Star Lighting.
- All members of the Star Committee led by Pastor Mike Stone and Warren Hollar for their continued work on the project.
- Hurshel Teague and his wife Dot for lighting the star. These two have given leadership to community functions such as star construction and programming for decades. They were chosen to represent all the previous community residents and members of the Bethlehem Community Development Association who have worked so tirelessly to make the star possible for over four decades.

Their work and the work of others over the years are too numerous to name are greatly appreciated.

NOTE: The Raise the Star Committee plans a meeting at Mt. Pisgah on Tuesday, January 22, at 6:30 p.m. to evaluate this year's program and discuss plans for the next Star Lighting.

Our Bethlehem Star serves as one of the thousand points of light described by our late forty-first President George H.W. Bush. We all can take pride in the way our community came together to resurrect our Bethlehem Star.

The Bethlehem Star Committee