

**COMMENTS TO THE DUKE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BY PRESIDENT NANNERL O. KEOHANE**

February 28, 1997

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to welcome you all back to the campus for what promises to be an interesting and productive Board meeting.

For those of you who have been on another planet for the past 24 hours, you should be aware that the weekend began brilliantly last evening with a splendid performance in Cameron Indoor Stadium, which assured the men's basketball team of at least a tie for the ACC regular season championship. The final score was 81 to 69, which came mighty close to Morris Williams' spontaneous prognostication of 80-70 Duke when he volunteered to call the game at the end of the wonderful dinner celebrating the generous gift he and Ruth gave to the East Campus rec facilities. I'm glad that so many of you could be with us for that dinner.

We often speak with pride of Duke's almost unique success in combining strong academics with strong athletics. If you ever need an example to prove it, cite graduating senior Carmen Wallace's response in interviews yesterday. He was asked to describe the past four years for the basketball team at Duke. Carmen said, "I would say it's been a roller coaster ride, but everybody always says that. So let me think of something original. It's like . . . Rhapsody in Blue. You start off really strong and get it going really good. You have the really slow parts toward the middle, and now we're finishing up with that grand finale." Carmen and his fellow seniors, Greg Newton and Jeff Capel, who both did well last night after difficult periods earlier in the season, have led their teammates back from the valley of despair in 1995 to something closer to the peaks of 1994. And of course Mike K's coaching was incredible -- as everyone says, it may be his best coaching year ever. Which is saying something!

As we speak, the women's basketball team under coach Gail Goestenkors, which also has some wonderful seniors, Kira Orr and Tye Hall, is opening the ACC tournament in Charlotte with a game against Maryland. I've asked to be updated on the score when the game is concluded, and I'll be glad to share it.

While I'm on the subject of excellence and leadership, I am pleased to report that the latest rankings of professional schools by U.S. News & World Report were released today. Once again, our professional schools did extremely well. The Duke Medical School moved from number 5 to number 3, Fuqua held to its number 9 ranking, and the Law School stayed at number 10. Our biomedical engineering program ranked, for the fourth consecutive year, number 2 in the country. While I am always aware that in the harsh light of day the fundamental purpose of magazine rankings is to sell magazines, it is nonetheless encouraging to see the high quality of our professional schools recognized in this way.

On the subject of excellence, I want to call your attention to one of the items in the written summary of activities that I shared with you in the materials mailed to you for this meeting. That is the splendid news from

the National Science Foundation that Duke was selected as one of 10 universities to receive a \$500,000 grant in recognition of innovation and achievement in our undergraduate program. At a time when serious questions are being raised about the quality of American higher education, and particularly the commitment of faculty to undergraduate education, it is especially appropriate that Duke be recognized for its efforts to integrate research and education into all aspects of university life. The Trustees can take special pride in this because of the commitment you have demonstrated over the years to ensuring that Duke be excellent both in teaching and in research, and that our faculty and students have access to appropriate facilities which encourage the integration of the best teaching and the best research, and provide a forum for undergraduates to engage with faculty and graduate students in ventures of discovery.

This evening we will be honoring Dick White and Dennis Campbell for their many contributions to Duke. Dick, along with Lee Willard and Charles Putman, were instrumental in winning the grant from the NSF. And Dennis, if the U.S. News rated divinity schools, I am sure that Duke would be among the top 2 or 3.

I also want to call your attention to an important symposium sponsored by the Duke Faculty Associates Program today and tomorrow entitled "What Difference Does Difference Make?" The purpose of this symposium is to move beyond superficial recognitions of diversity and difference to a thoughtful examination of the effects of diversity and difference on the ways we conduct research, we teach, we learn, and we interact. Elizabeth Minnich, professor of philosophy and womens studies at the Graduate School of the Union Institute, is the keynote speaker for this two-day conference of panel discussions which will critically examine complex issues of how diversity and difference influence and affect aspects of our lives at Duke. As you know, we plan to conclude this meeting in time for those of you who wish to do so to attend this lecture; and you are all invited to have a continental breakfast with the participants in the symposium tomorrow morning, when I will offer an opening statement for the day's session.

You will recall the good report John Burness gave at our last meeting on our plans to develop partnerships with 12 neighborhoods near campus, including five elementary and two middle schools. Last week we announced that Sandy Ogburn, a long-time volunteer in numerous civic organizations in our community and an eight-year veteran of the Durham City Council, has been appointed as permanent director of community affairs at Duke. Sandy has done an excellent job for us on an interim director basis since January 1996, and she has the strong support of the senior officers in this permanent appointment. As part of this reorganization, Joseph Alston, former associate director of Material Support and coordinator of Duke's Minority and Women-Owned Business Purchasing Program, has been appointed to the Community Affairs staff as director of special projects. Joe is a Durham native who has worked at Duke for 16 years and knows the Durham community and Duke well. In a move to improve campus-wide coordination of our outreach efforts, Warren Herndon, who has directed community relations and special programs for the Medical Center, has joined the new Community Affairs team. Warren serves as chair of the city's Human Relations Commission and has been instrumental in establishing the Rights of Passage program to promote the African-American experience in society.

Finally, I want to report on some of my forays around the country since our last meeting. Earlier this month, I spent several days in Florida meeting with alumni in Jacksonville, Miami, Palm Beach, Hobe Sound and Vero Beach, in small dinners and large alumni club meetings. I've also spent time in New York and California

meeting with individual alumni to discuss our proposed capital campaign. I have been encouraged at all of these meetings by the level of affection and support our graduates have for Duke and by their belief that Duke has an important leadership role to play in American higher education. I also met with alumni while I was in Washington, principally for a visit over a day-and-a-half to Capitol Hill. There, too, I was struck by the strongly held belief that Duke is making a difference.

Over the next several months, I will be flying to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Dallas, Houston, Philadelphia/Wilmington, and New York, and driving to the Triad for a series of presidential dinners, Alumni Club events, and development visits. It's my hope that there will also be a trip to Indianapolis on that schedule for the Final Four. I know Randy and Marianne, and Bud and Carolyn Schafer, would love to have the chance to welcome Dukies for that event.

And that, Mr. Chairman, concludes my report. I would be pleased to take any questions about anything in it or in the materials that were previously distributed to the Board.

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