



**Dog paddle**

Amy Ashwath and her dog Canada play at the pond in front of Thomas Cooper Library Tuesday. Warm weather returned Tuesday afternoon and should continue the rest of the week.

TRACY HOWIE/The Gamecock

**Center** *Continued from page 2*

they have a basic understanding of how to access medical care," Turner said.

He said in the "real" world you just don't walk into a doctor's office and expect to be seen, but call ahead and get an appointment.

The new system has been generally well received, Turner said.

"People like the system so much that we are filling up our appointments very, very rapidly," he said.

About 25 or 30 percent of the patients at the health center have appointments, compared to less than one or two percent before, he said.

The gynecology and mental health clinic at the center have always operated on an appointment basis, Turner said. Only the general medical clinic operated on a walk-in format.

"Students who are very sick — we are still seeing them on a walk-in basis and are encouraging them not to wait to schedule an appointment, but just come in and let us see you," Turner said.

"When you put them on an appointment system, when they come back that appointed time, they're seen faster. That makes the students happier," Dr. Audrey Rhodes said.

With the appointment system, the physicians have some idea of what to expect and are able to pace

themselves, Rhodes said.

The new non-smoking policy, instituted Monday, has also been well received, Turner said.

"We did it for two reasons. First of all, we have a lot of students that come to the health center with respiratory illnesses. We had smoke in the building from employees and patients, and we felt it was unfair for people with respiratory diseases to be exposed to passive smoke.

"I was a little concerned about the non-smoking policy out of respect to our employees who smoke. They are valued employees and good people. But fortunately, they have received it. They understand the nature of why we did this," Turner said.

If the Koger Center could be a non-smoking facility, the health center could be a non-smoking facility, Turner said.

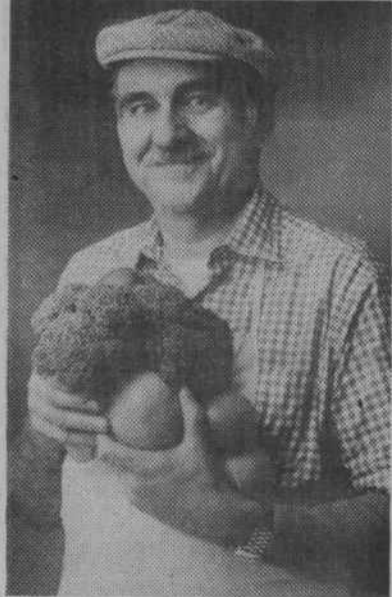
Rhodes said she believed the no smoking policy was a wonderful idea and should have been implemented a long time ago. The health center is supposed to be setting the example, she said.

"I hope that we set an example that will be a trend across campus. Everybody knows that cigarettes are harmful to the body, but sometimes putting words into action moves slowly. But that's what we've done," Rhodes said.

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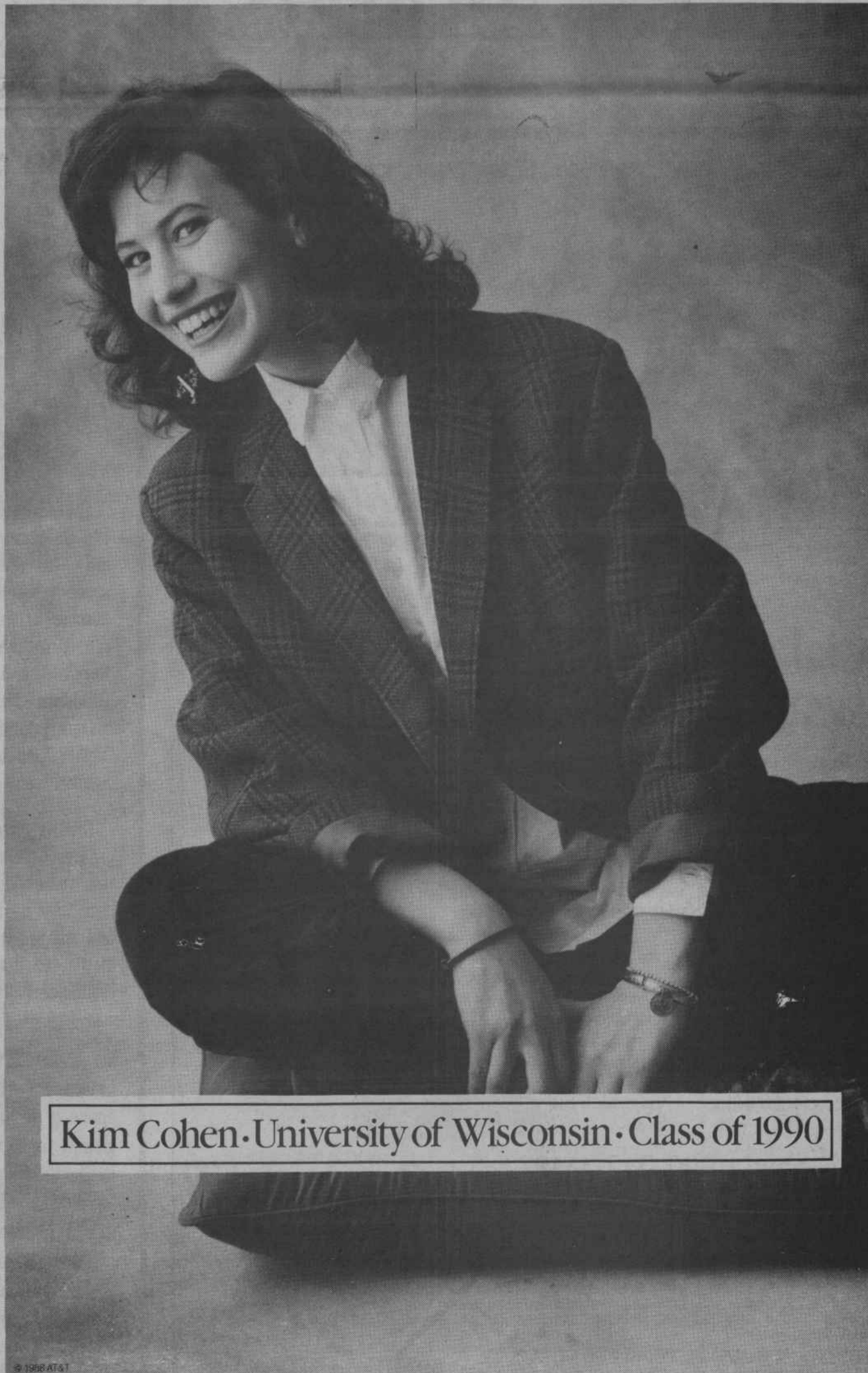
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