

Academy student challenges Citadel tradition

Associated Press

OAK RIDGE, N.C. — Nancy Mellette, a 17-year-old cadet at a North Carolina military academy who wants to march at The Citadel, said Tuesday she is up to the physical challenge that Shannon Faulkner failed.

A cross-country runner, Ms. Mellette said her best time in the two-mile run is 13 minutes and she recently did 28 situps in 30 seconds.

"I can do pushups pretty well, too," she told a news conference at Oak Ridge Military Academy, about 30 minutes north of Greensboro.

Asked her weight, Ms. Mellette pluckily replied, "Don't you know you're not supposed to ask women that question, sir?"

Whether Ms. Faulkner was physically fit under U.S. Army standards for her weight became an issue in the days before she entered the cadet corps Aug. 12.

Ms. Faulkner, after 2 1/2 years of legal battles to attend the all-male, state-supported military college in Charleston, S.C., dropped out during the first week of rigorous training, known as "hell week," saying the stress and isolation were damaging her health. She spent most of the week in the college infirmary, too sick to keep down food.

Ms. Mellette of Irmo, S.C., said she had hoped to serve under Ms. Faulkner and had not expected to

pick up the battle for the right of women to attend the school.

Lawyers challenging The Citadel's all-male status last week asked a judge to allow Ms. Mellette to enter Ms. Faulkner's lawsuit. If that isn't allowed, Ms. Mellette probably will file a separate lawsuit, said attorney Val Vojdik.

"Nancy has completed the (admissions) application and is forwarding it to The Citadel," Ms. Vojdik said. "They have not received it yet."

About 200 women have expressed interest in attending the college, she said.

Ms. Mellette said she also was interested in applying to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the University of South Carolina.

She said an alternative, state-subsidized leadership program for women established at private Converse College doesn't equal The Citadel. South Carolina hopes the courts approve that as an alternative to letting women into The Citadel.

"Converse doesn't offer electrical engineering courses and I don't believe that the military instruction they have at Converse would be equal to The Citadel," Ms. Mellette said.

She also cited her family's ties to The Citadel and said going there gives her the option instead of the

obligation of military service after graduation.

Ms. Mellette's father, Bland, is a 1963 Citadel graduate and manager of the computer assisted design section of the South Carolina Transportation Department. Her brother, Bland III, is a senior and cadet corps officer.

Her mother, Dr. Connie Mellette, was among the first women to graduate from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and said she was the one who contacted Ms. Faulkner's lawyers on behalf of her daughter.

The family attorney, Melissa Burnette, handed out a photo of Nancy playing on a tank at the Citadel with her sister and brother in 1984. Burnette said Ms. Mellette had wanted to attend the college since age 7.

Her parents said they supported their daughter's decision to apply to The Citadel. Her father, however, said he did not want to discuss how he felt the day Ms. Faulkner dropped out and cadets cheered her departure.

Bland Mellette said the military services have had women for years and function well, so "I believe eventually women will be there (at The Citadel) and it will improve the institution."

Health Expo to feature kayaking, yoga, climbing

Staff Reports

Health Expo '95 will take place today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Russell House Patio.

More than 35 vendors from both off- and on-campus will be on hand to teach students about community resources available to students. Some activities planned for today include: step aerobics, in-line skating and hearing demonstrations by the USC Speech and Hearing Center. The Stronghold Athletic Club will hold climbing demonstrations on their 16 ft. wall. River Runner Outdoor Center is sponsor-

ing kayaking in the library pond at 10 a.m. and students are invited to participate, according to Terry Arave of Health and Wellness Programs.

As a part of the health expo, a free introductory yoga class will be offered from 12:30-1:15 p.m. in RH room 315.

This year's health expo will incorporate the Fitness Fest which is usually held in the spring. The expo is sponsored by Health and Wellness Programs in the Student Health Center, the Office of Campus Recreation and the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

Gamecock Greenbacks

MARTHA HOTOP Asst. News Editor

A USC faculty committee will hold an informative session for potential Harry Truman Scholars.

Students interested in applying for the scholarship should attend an information session on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 4 p.m. in the Gressette Room, located on the third floor of Harper College. The applicant deadline is September 26.

Established by Congress in 1975, the Truman Scholarship is the official federal memorial for the 33rd U.S. President. Each year 80 scholarships are awarded to students going on to graduate school and preparing for careers in government or public service.

The Truman Foundation defines careers in public service as employment at any government level, uniformed services, public-interest organizations, non-governmental research or educational organizations and public-service oriented non-profit organization. The non-profit organizations' primary purposes must be to help needy or disadvantaged persons, or to protect the environment.

Scholarship winners receive a total of \$30,000. Truman Scholars receive \$3,000 for the senior year and \$27,000 for up to three years of graduate school.

In addition to financial assistance, Truman Scholars receive priority admission to premier graduate institutions. As a Truman Scholar, special federal government internships are available, along with leadership training.

Students must be nominated by the USC faculty committee, in order to be considered for the scholarship.

Truman Scholars are judged and selected based on a rigorous set of criteria. As part of the criteria, applicants must possess strong writing and leadership skills, along with high academic performance and potential.

"The Truman nomination and selection process is designed to benefit all participants— not solely those selected as Truman Scholars. It encourages the candidates to reflect on the needs of society they want to address professionally, to refine career goals and to plan for graduate study," said Novella Beskid, director of Fellowships and Summer Programs.

Last year, Steven Burritt, a junior broadcasting major at USC, was awarded a Truman Scholarship. Prior to Burritt, USC's last recipient was Stephen Hibbard, back in 1981.

Any further questions may be directed at Novella Beskid, at 777-0958.

Hurricane Luis takes aim at Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Dwarfing the island nations of the Caribbean with a 700-mile-wide maelstrom of wind and rain, Hurricane Luis took dead aim at the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on Tuesday.

Frightened tourists and islanders jammed airports trying to flee. Airports in the U.S. Virgin Islands closed at midday, and the last flight out of Puerto Rico was scheduled for 6:45 p.m., just hours before the expected arrival of Luis.

"Those people without reservations should not come to the airport because there are almost no seats left," said Armando Castro, an American Airlines official at San Juan's main airport.

Some of the control tower's windows were boarded up to keep them from being blown out.

The scene was repeated throughout

islands in the path of one of the Caribbean's most powerful storms of the century. From shantytowns to gleaming tourist hotels, boards and metal sheets were hammered over windows.

In San Juan's La Perla slum, Jesus Mendez Ruiz hacked with an axe at a partially eroded cement utility pole as his friend tugged on a rope tied to the pole.

"We're taking it down so it doesn't come through the house tonight," Mendez said.

As the storm bore down on Puerto Rico, Gov. Pedro Rossello went on television and appealed to people not to panic.

"Be calm, but be prepared," Rossello said.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, Gov. Roy L. Schneider declared a state of emergency and imposed a dusk-to-dawn cur-

few to prevent looting.

Earlier Tuesday, the hurricane assaulted the islands of the northeastern Caribbean with gusts up to 146 mph. In Antigua, about 250 miles east of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the storm flipped roofs off houses and knocked down telephone lines. Even before it hit trees were bent double.

"It's like a million ghosts howling outside," said Jackie Butler, a Briton who teaches in Davie, in southern Florida.

Butler, 35, got caught in Antigua while vacationing with her husband and five children, including their 2-month-old daughter. The family was hunkered down in an apartment building.

Speaking by telephone, she said the shrieking wind was interrupted by bangs that sounded like the roof trying to lift off. "Touch wood, it's still on," she managed to joke.

In Guadeloupe, waves as high as nine feet swept a 29-year-old French tourist from a jetty on Monday while he was trying to photograph the sea. Thirteen people were hurt as the hurricane brushed past the island.

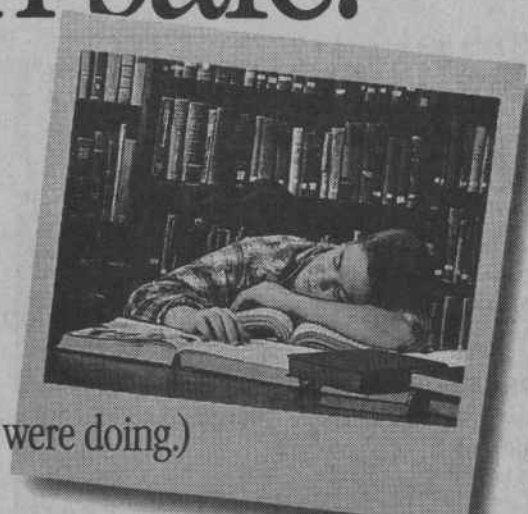
At 2 p.m. EDT, top wind speeds had diminished to 130 mph but the storm was every bit as wide. The center of the hurricane was 50 miles east of St. Martin and moving west-northwest at 9 mph.

In Puerto Rico, people flocked to boarded-up stores to stock up on water, candles, flashlights and other essentials.


The National Guard was on alert and the Federal Emergency Management Agency was flying in communications teams and equipment aboard a C-5A transport plane. Two satellite communications units also were being dispatched.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

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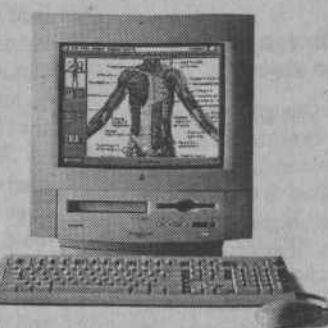
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