

"Gift from the Heart" blood drive addresses nationwide shortage

by ALLISON BIGGAR

Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, the Association of Campus Entertainment (ACE) had a "Gift from the Heart" blood drive in the University Center. The program was a part of Homecoming Week Festivities and served to address the needs of a countrywide blood shortage. Around 100 people arrived between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to donate blood to the American Red Cross.

"ACE was able to provide the Red Cross with 76 pints of blood reaching the Red Cross goal of 75 pints," said Campus Activities Coordinator Ian Martin who is an advisor for ACE.

Because of factors including the devastating effects of Hurricane Floyd, North Carolina and other states along the East Coast have experienced a blood shortage in recent months.

"Anytime a natural disaster disrupts the blood supply in one part of the country, it has a ripple effect across the nation," Angela Buscemi, acting manager of The National Blood Exchange was quoted saying on the organization's web site. "With this in mind, Americans need to know that donating blood locally not only helps their

local blood supply, but also can help Americans across the nation in times of need."

While the "Gift from the Heart" blood drive was not planned due to the shortage, the event's timing worked well.

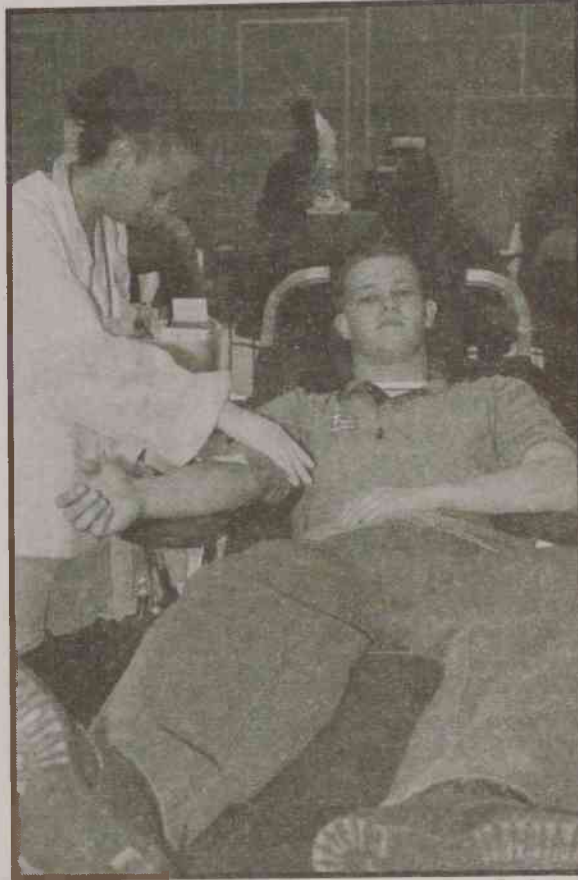
"We wanted a little bit of altruism for our events during homecoming week," said Martin. "It just happened that we could help out in a time of need so it just worked out in the best way."

During the blood drive, members from the Cape Fear Chapter of the American Red Cross was on hand to screen students. The Cape Fear Chapter provides blood to five area hospitals.

Signs posted around the University Union read, "Every year your heart pumps 2,625,000 pints of blood. Could you spare just one?"

Volunteers emphasized that the process of donating blood is quick and easy. The procedure takes about an hour, and each time one donates blood, he/she could be saving up to three lives. All healthy Americans that are at least 17 years of age, and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate.

"The blood drive went really well. It is an event they [ACE] look forward to doing in the future," said Martin.



Corey Accardo/The Seahawk

UNCW Sophomore Jon Ball, seated, prepares to give blood at last Tuesday's "Gift From The Heart" blood drive, sponsored by the Association for Campus Activities (ACE) and the American Red Cross. The blood drive was part of UNCW's Homecoming Week activities. About 100 people helped exceed the goal of 75 pints of blood donated.

Study reveals need for child care

by ANNA C. BROOME

Staff Writer

A survey conducted by a group of communication students via e-mail last semester proved there is a need for there to be childcare services available to students, faculty and staff on campus.

Carin Faulkner, now a graduate of UNCW and a mother, started the project in the fall of '99 for Dr. Louis Buttino's Public Relations class. "Our assignment was to provide a campus service. We choose this particular issue because everyone in the group was female. I was pregnant and concerned about the availability of adequate childcare once I gave birth. After I researched my options, I realized they were few and far between," Faulkner said. "Daycare providers either wanted to charge me a flat weekly rate, when I only required my child be in their care for 20 hours a week, or they did not care for infants."

The survey Faulkner and her classmates devised was sent to students, faculty and staff via e-mail. It asked if they were interested in having accessible childcare. Of the 1235 responses, 384 said they needed the service. 817 replied that they did not have children, but supported the idea, and 34 were not interested. Other questions were included in the study were: What kind of childcare would be good? What kind do you currently use? How often? How many children do you have? What are their ages?

"It is evident from the survey results that childcare is called for on campus, but there is not the grass roots support that is necessary to ensure the success of the program," said Director of Institutional Research Robert E. Fry. "The proposal has no leadership. There needs to be student participation."

Other conflicts include the lack of available space for a facility. The old ROTC building, now the Academic Support Building, was ini-

tially considered but it failed inspection due to a lack of handicap ramps and sinks. The diversity of needs related to childcare was also cited as a problem.

"The needs of the parents on campus varied to an extent that disallowed the formation of a program that could serve everyone," said Mark W. Lanier, special assistant to the chancellor. "Some needed only summer care when their children were out of school, others specified evenings and weekends or only when their child was sick."

Lanier supports the idea whole-heartily but he, like Fry, said it needs to be a group effort.

"I wanted to establish the same system on this campus that is found at NC State," Lanier said.

"They have a non-profit-parent co-op. It is off campus, but available full-time. The parents and the school fund the center. It works very well. But I did not receive the support."

Although there remains no childcare system on campus, there are other alternatives. The Childcare Resource and Referral Organization is sponsored by the Child Advocacy Commission of the Lower Cape Fear. Danielle Metty is in charge of the department, and she refers parents to centers that facilitate their needs.

"The Children's Inn is a great center for students who are parents. It is located near campus off Oleander and is open 7 days a week from 2 p.m. to 10 a.m. The center takes children ages 2 to 14 years of age and accepts DSS (Department of Social Services) assisted funding," Metty said.

If the child is an infant, there are home-care programs. Students who do not have the finances needed to receive this kind of service can apply for financial aid.

"All they need to do is contact the Department of Social Services (341-4700 extension 3304), and they will be advised as how to take the necessary steps," Metty said.

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