



## The University and Towns IN BRIEF

### Dance Company Plans To Hold Performances

The Dance Theatre of Harlem will perform at 8 p.m. March 6 and March 7 in Memorial Hall.

The ballet company blends types of dance from neoclassic ballet to modern jazz.

The Carolina Union Box Office will honor tickets purchased for the Nov. 20 and Nov. 21 performances, which were rescheduled because of a conflict in the company's touring season.

Tickets can be purchased at the box office on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prices are \$17, \$15 and \$13 for students and \$32, \$28 and \$24 for others. For more information, call 962-1449.

### UNC Music Faculty Set To Perform in Concert

A Sunday concert will celebrate "Appalachian Spring" and two other Aaron Copeland works in Hill Hall to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth.

Thirteen faculty members from the UNC School of Music and guest symphony musicians, conducted by associate music Professor Tonu Kalam, will perform in the Centennial Concert at 3 p.m.

The concert is the sixth in the music department's 1999-2000 William S. Newman Artists Series.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students.

### Student Government, RHA Talk Fire Safety

The Residence Hall Association and the executive branch of student government will host a discussion on the facts of fire safety in residence halls.

The forum will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in Hinton James Residence Hall first-floor study lounge.

The discussion, titled "How Safe Are You," will feature presentations by the Department of Health and Safety, the Department of University Housing, the Student Master Plan Advisory Committee and the Chapel Hill Fire Department.

### Police Combat Speed On Franklin Street

The Chapel Hill police set up a radar detector that displays a car's speed to drivers on Franklin Street on Wednesday.

Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said the display was owned by the Fraternal Order of Police and used by several police departments in the region to cut down on speeding.

She said there were not any major speeding problems on Franklin Street, but police just wanted to make people aware of how fast they were going.

"There's no special reason," she said. "We're just trying to slow traffic down."

### 'The Musical' to Air Sunday in Carroll Hall

The Chapel Hill Historical Society is showing the third movie in the Classic Film Series on Sunday in the Carroll Hall auditorium.

The film, which will air at 7 p.m., will be "Singing in the Rain," starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds.

Single admission tickets are \$6 at the door and may be purchased at various locations.

For more information, call the Historical Society at 929-1793.

### Help Guides Available At Women's Center

The Women's Center in Chapel Hill is offering a guide to help provide information on separation, divorce, domestic violence, child custody, child support, mediation and property settlement.

"Family Law in North Carolina" was drafted by area attorneys and is available in English and Spanish.

The guide is \$10 and can be purchased at The Women's Center at 210 Henderson St.

For more information, call 968-4610.

### Country Dance to Have Live Band With Caller

Triangle Country Dancers are holding a contra dance with live music March 10 at the Pleasant Green Community Center in Durham.

Roaring Marv with caller Louie Cromartie will be playing. Instruction begins at 7:30 p.m. and dancing begins at 8 p.m.

The fee is \$5 for members and \$7 for others.

For more information, call 220-8411. From Staff Reports

# Parents Angered Over Redistricting

By ROBERT ALBRIGHT  
Staff Writer

With redistricting looming in the near future for Orange County elementary schools, parents took to the podium and voiced their concerns during a Board of Education public hearing Wednesday night.

Because of overcrowding in the county's five elementary schools, officials are building a new school, Pathways Elementary, to accommodate the influx of students.

Because Pathways is not set to open until late October, parents said they

worried the redrawing of district lines would leave children changing schools midway through the year and taking extended bus trips to class.

Kurt Moar, whose family will likely move from the Efland-Cheeks Elementary district to the Central Elementary district, was one of about 15 parents who complained about the redistricting proposal.

"The problem I have is that my children will have to ride another 15 to 20 minutes to school," he said. "We need to consider the impact on the children."

School officials have deliberated the redistricting fate of area students for

more than a year now, with the most recent proposal presented in mid-January. If the board approves the redistricting proposal, 800 of the school system's 6,200 students will change schools to comply with the plan.

Sean Smith, who has a first-grader and a pre-kindergartner at New Hope Elementary, said he was concerned with the possibility of moving his children after they got settled at one school.

"I won't complain if we get redistricted, but I will complain if my kindergartner has to move halfway through the year," he said. "I hope he can be spared that."

While many parents urged school leaders to rethink the plan, teacher and parent Wandra Whitford said the board should adopt a plan that would benefit the county as a whole rather than appeal to the needs of specific students.

"I want Orange County to have a reputation of fairness and concern for all students," she said. "We need to look at what is going to be good for this system right now and in the future."

Whitford, who has had children in the county's schools for 20 years, said she admired the board for tackling such

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# Residents Say Needs Not Heard

Pine Knolls residents say they question the Town Council's ability to diversify resident involvement.

By ENYONAM KPEGLO  
Staff Writer

Representatives from a Chapel Hill minority community say the town's new efforts to involve special interest groups in housing decisions might be in vain.

The Town Council approved a revision Monday night that would modify the Citizen Participation Plan to meet standards set by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HUD issued a report in September calling for Chapel Hill to encourage a more diverse group of people to get involved in town decisions.

The report stated that the town needed to have more input about local housing, specifically minorities, the elderly and working-class residents.

Town Manager Cal Horton said the changes were minimal and that the focus was on increasing the turnout of this target group at public hearings.

"We already strive to invite citizens to speak in front of the council," he said. "This measure will include more documentation of the things that have already been done."

Changes include a proposed neighborhood advisory committee and a heightened effort to involve the community. But Pine Knolls representatives said the efforts were weak at best.

Ted Parrish, a representative of the Pine Knolls community, questioned the sincerity of the council's proposal.

He said there were several reasons why many minorities did not attend public hearings. "I think there is sufficient mutual distrust between the Town Council and residents in my neighborhood," Parrish said. "It just seems as though some town officials have their own agenda and they do not see Pine Knolls' needs as a priority."

But council member Lee Pavao said Parrish's views might not be shared by all the Pine Knolls residents. "I think it is unfortunate when you consider the history of (council's) involvement with that particular community," he said.

Parrish said he received invitations to attend Town Council hearings but chose not to participate because his views would not be considered in the council's final decision. "In February, we sent in a proposal for \$17,000 in grant money to repair the community center roof, but the council quickly gave the money to another group," Parrish said.

But Pavao said the town had always been generous when dispersing funds.

George Sanford, president of the Pines Community Center Inc., said

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## Lunch, Loyalty Sutton's Recipe

Sutton's Drug Store on Franklin Street hasn't changed much since it was opened in 1923.

A famous lunch stop and Chapel Hill landmark, Sutton's has only seen two changes in 23 years, said John Woodard, the pharmacist and owner of Sutton's for the past 23 years (below, right).

The only changes he has made have been new products on the shelves and expanding the grill twice, he said.

And Sutton's is steeped in memories, as can be seen from the walls lined with pictures of its customers.

Some of Sutton's regulars have been loyal customers five or six days a week for 40 years. These longtime customers don't come to Sutton's just for the food — they come to talk, laugh and meet new people.

Many of them started coming

to Sutton's as UNC students, including Jim Crisp, class of '55, and Michael Walker, class of '74 (below, left).

Lenny Foushee, who works the grill, jokes and teases his regular customers while he serves coffee and cooks up breakfast for everyone (below, left).

Out-of-towners stop in Sutton's because it is a famous Chapel Hill and UNC spot.

"It's like home in a small mid-western town," said Sharon McDonough, a UNC parent from Henderson.

The UNC women's basketball coach Sylvia Hatchell has a tradition of bringing her potential recruits to Sutton's. The store has a strong history of supporting UNC athletics.

Two current recruits, Tabitha Ruth, from Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Latonya "Buffy" Graves from Mullins, S.C., admire photos of other Sutton's customers (above right).



A five-part series of photo essays taking a look at the people and places that make our local area unique.



# Drug Question Stalls Financial Aid Process

By RACHEL LEONARD  
Staff Writer

A new question on this year's federal financial aid application asking students about illegal drug convictions has delayed aid allocation and sparked criticism that the policy is unfair.

So far, more than 100,000 students have left the Free Application for Federal Student Aid question blank, delaying the allocation of funds.

The 2000-01 school year is the first in which drug violations are considered as an eligibility factor for government aid, including loans.

All students with past drug convictions receiving federal aid face losing their funds, according to the policy.

The policy has taken heat from students who claim it unfairly discriminates against the poor and singles out drug use over other offenses.

Students are not asked about past convictions for offenses such as robbery, rape or drunken driving.

But Lisa Cain, spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Education, said the number of students leaving the question unanswered was already beginning to drop.

This is due to that fact that FAFSA applications, which all students requesting aid must complete, will soon be available only online, as opposed to the mail-in form.

On the online form, students must answer the question in order to electronically submit the application.

Cain explained that most students said they had misunderstood or forgotten to answer the question.

The new policy is part of a provision

in the reauthorized Higher Education Act of 1998 pushed by Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind.

The new law states that those convicted on drug possession charges lose their aid for one year on the first conviction, two years on the second and indefinitely on the third.

For students convicted of selling drugs, aid is withheld for two years on the first conviction and indefinitely on the second.

The only way a student with a prior drug conviction might receive aid is if he or she has successfully completed a government-approved rehabilitation program.

Souder could not be reached for comment Wednesday but told Georgetown University's student newspaper he justified his provision by saying he hoped the new law would encourage young people not to use drugs and to get help if they were already using them.

Students are free to choose whether or not to record a past violation, as there is no background check system to ensure honesty.

But lying on the FAFSA form is a federal offense.

One organization that has criticized the new law is the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

"(The new law) is definitely a bad thing for students," said UNC-Chapel Hill NORML member Heather Parlier.

"It's the only kind of crime you can lose your financial aid for."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

# Colleges Seek to Stop Suicides

Student suicide rates are lower than for the general population, but officials say it is still a pressing concern.

By LANI HARAC  
Staff Writer

College life is an often-stressful proposition — moving away from home, dealing with heavy course loads and juggling multiple activities all take their toll.

And according to national statistics, suicide was the third leading cause of death in 1997 among those aged 15 to 24, with 11.5 suicides out of every 100,000 people.

That number rose slightly — to 13.6 out of every 100,000 — for adults aged 20 to 24, according to the National Institute of Mental Health's Web site.

Several recent incidents of college students committing suicide, including one student in February from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have sparked a national debate on the topic.

The issue has also prompted some university administrators to increase their role in the identification and prevention process.

Dr. Michael Mond, director of the Johns Hopkins University Counseling Center, said JHU instituted a "suicide tracking system" three or four years ago to provide extra attention to students seen as possibly suicidal.

"We have set up a system where we continue to monitor the person over a

reasonable amount of time, until we feel they are out of harm's way," Mond said.

The program was developed with Dr. David Jobs, associate professor of psychology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and includes a battery of questions on several psychological issues, including feelings or thoughts about suicide.

"If they write anything at all on the suicide item, they are then given more intense screening by the counselor that works with them," Mond said.

He said counselors made a point to check students' progress at every session, which range from once per week to as often as every day.

MIT also has increased its role in identifying at-risk students, said Senior Associate Dean Robert M. Randolph.

"We've become more aggressively intrusive. We're encouraging people to be more up-front and outspoken to people they're worried about," Randolph said.

"We just constantly keep trying to recreate a community where students realize that caring about one another is a virtue, not a vice."

Although support networks are in place for those students who seek it out, identifying students who don't is what many school administrators find disheartening.

"We have developed a system that has trained people in residence halls at a number of levels — RAs, our house-masters. We do a good bit of training about the signs of suicidality," Randolph said.

"Unfortunately, what we find is that over the course of, let's say the last decade, maybe only one of the last eight or nine suicides that we had intersected the system in this fashion.

"People who wish to commit suicide very often bring their issues that have put them into this category to campus with them, and they are unknown to us. It is a very difficult problem to get a hold of," he said.

Mond said administrators counted on different departments to work together in identifying at-risk students.

"Every year, I send out a letter to faculty and staff that identifies for them things they should be on the lookout for in terms of depression or suicidal behavior," Mond said. "It also explains to them how they can get the students to the counseling center for a more accurate assessment."

"At the same time, we also train the RAs every year, (and) we train a number of different departments on how to refer (students)," Mond said, including student health, sports organization, the dean of students' office and campus security.

Randolph said despite efforts to eliminate suicide on campus, it would always be a prominent issue.

"I think we always can do more," he said. "You can work to create a community where, when people are fragile, people notice. Does it always work? No. It's a very fine line that we tread."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

