

Resident assistants perform various and diversified roles

By LYNN EARLEY
DTH Staff Writer

Students serving as resident assistants are expected to be administrators, educators, regulators, resource persons, friends and counselors, according to resident assistant manuals.

RA's are expected to serve as model citizens in the community and to do this with objectivity. But before an interested student can tackle this job, he or she must go through a 2½-month RA selection process which begins Nov. 30.

"We're attempting to meet the needs of the students as best as we can meet them," Associate Director for Residence Life Jody Harpster said last week.

RA's must provide a role model for residents of their halls. "What we expect RA's generally to be are model citizens in the community," Harpster said, "but we accept that they're human and on human is perfect."

Charlene Mason, a graduate student and RA in Cobb Residence Hall, said being a role model was sometimes an uncomfortable position. "You're always under scrutiny," she said. "You always feel like people are watching you."

Another goal for RA's is objectivity, Harpster said. "We want someone who can hold values at arm's length and be able to deal with the issue at hand objectively."

Al Perry, a junior political science major and RA in Granville Towers agreed. He said he placed importance on being able to relate freely and easily with people and with different kinds of people in particular.

Mason and Perry said that getting to know people, including their residents and other staff members from various parts of campus, was one of the most beneficial aspects of their job.

All applicants follow the same steps during the selection process. There are four steps for all candidates and five for some.

The first part of the process is the application. The forms are available Nov. 30 in the Housing Department and are due at 5 p.m. Jan. 15. They can be turned into the applicant's

area director or to the Residence Life Office in the Housing Department.

The second part is a mandatory convocation on Jan. 14. The next step is an individual interview with one resident assistant and the applicant unless an applicant is ruled out because his grades fall below 2.5. These interviews are scheduled for Jan. 18-Jan. 21.

The fourth step is a panel interview, with five interviewers and the applicant. These interviews are scheduled for the weekends of Jan. 23 and 24 and Jan. 30 and 31.

A fifth step will follow for some applicants, Harpster said. "At that point in time, after those steps, the interview process for many people could end. But that doesn't mean they're cut."

He said that follow up interviews were conducted in specific areas, with area directors, two resident assistants and a student representative to get to know certain applicants better. These interviews will be from Feb. 5-Feb. 14, and no candidate will have more than three.

Discussions about candidates between the nine area directors and the three assistant tower managers of Granville Towers will be next. These usually total 12-14 hours, Harpster said. "Every candidate is discussed — what their strengths were and what their weaknesses were."

Finally, the resident assistants will be chosen and letters will be sent to each applicant on Feb. 16.

The various steps allow the area directors and current RA's to get to know applicants from each part of campus. Emphasis is placed on applicants never interviewing with anyone from their area, Harpster said. He said most applicants are already known in their own area.

After each interview, evaluation forms on the candidate will be filled out by the interviewer and submitted to the Residence Life Office.

Harpster said thought-provoking questions would be brought up at each step, to give applicants a chance to think about the major step they were considering.

Resolution to aid students by redistributing money; boosts financial support

By LYNN EARLEY
DTH Staff Writer

A resolution to increase financial aid to students attending the 16-campus UNC system by reallocating funds now given to private schools was drawn up by the UNC Association of Student Governments, UNCASG President Scott Norberg said Sunday.

LaVie Ellison, chairman of the State Affairs Committee, said that the resolution was unanimously approved Saturday at the monthly meeting of the UNCASG.

The resolution was drawn up as a result of a study by the State Affairs Committee which said that money now allotted by the state legislature to private colleges and universities was not used efficiently for its intended purpose.

Nine sources of financial aid are available to students attending private schools, and two of these are unavailable to students at public schools. These are the North Carolina Contractual Scholarship Fund and the North Carolina Legislative Tuition Grant.

Ellison said that these incentive programs were established at private schools to attract students since tuition was usually higher there than at private schools.

The Legislative Tuition Grant is a \$600 grant credited to each North Carolina

student's account at private institutions, regardless of financial need.

An amount of \$200 per student is given to each private school to build up the State Contractual Scholarship Fund. This pool is then allocated to students through need, Ellison said. However, no ceiling is placed on these awards, so there is no limit to the amount a certain student could get.

The study conducted by the State Affairs Committee found that the incentive programs were not working, Ellison said. She said the enrollment of North Carolina residents in North Carolina private colleges and universities has increased by 1,872 students between Oct. 1, 1972, and Oct. 1, 1980. The total state funds allocated to these schools is \$78,221,930. Therefore, Ellison said, allocated funds for each new student at private schools would be \$45,224.07.

She said that differences could be found in each school. She cited N.C. Wesleyan College and Pfeiffer College as examples. N.C. Wesleyan College gained 189 students and received \$1,597,912 in state funds. Pfeiffer College lost 140 students and received \$1,572,305 in state funds.

The study concluded that the incentive programs were not being administered consistently and were not succeeding in attracting many students to the private schools.



Scott Norberg

Norberg said that the UNCASG felt the funding now being used for these two programs should be redefined as a need-based financial aid fund for all North Carolina students.

"Tuition aid sources are being cut and we think that rather than use this money as a grant fund not based on need it should be used as loans according to need," Norberg said.

Ellison said the resolution would be submitted to Gov. Jim Hunt, Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green, the UNC Board of Governors, UNC President William C. Friday, the House Education Budget Committee and the Senate Education Budget Committee, to gain support.

Norberg said, "We're urging the legislators to introduce and adopt legislation according to what we've recommended."

Peace Corps recruiting college graduates; interviews to be held on campus this week

By KATHERINE LONG
DTH Staff Writer

The Peace Corps seeks a different kind of volunteer today, but the ideals behind the organization have not changed since it was started more than 20 years ago, Corps recruiter Alex Wilson said recently.

Today, the Corps is looking for volunteers with college degrees, Wilson said. Wilson will be on campus to talk to students and faculty from Nov. 16-20.

"Now we're trying to find people with skills," Wilson said. "Volunteer experience or work experience is vital."

Volunteers are selected nine months to a year in advance, and are trained to work for two years with people in developing Third World countries. Wilson said the Corps was looking for people with skills in biological science, agriculture, nursing and health education, and a special need today exists for deaf volunteers.

Wilson, who joined with the Corps' domestic counterpart VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) when he graduated

from UNC in 1975, said students' motivations have changed since the Corps was started.

"It was a lot more altruism, a curiosity back in the early days," he said. "Now, people ask, 'What specifically am I trained to do?' They come back (after two years) with a much stronger sense of abilities."

The Peace Corps was started in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. Today, President Ronald Reagan has cut the program's funding by 15 percent, but Wilson said the Corps has the support of the administration.

But the 17-year-old VISTA program will lose all its funding by 1983, the Reagan administration has decided. Wilson said he has stopped recruiting for that program.

"The Peace Corps program will ride through the cutbacks in fine shape," he said. "VISTA won't. There was a real feeling it became overly political by allowing poor people to help themselves."

Wilson said the Corps would absorb the 15 percent cutback, continue to serve

in 62 countries and retain the same number of volunteers, which now stands at 5,508.

Wilson said the Peace Corps was "one of the first U.S. presences invited (into a country), and the last asked to leave when diplomatic tensions are high."

"Volunteers see themselves as isolated from politics, religion, policy ... the real commitment is to see a health clinic being built, or introduce a new food crop."

For example, Wilson said a volunteer might be assigned to introduce a high-protein, fast-growing fish into a village diet. "After four months of training, you will be able to introduce a new food source that will last indefinitely," he said. "Often the most difficult thing is getting the local people to choose to eat fish in their diet. It takes good communications skills."

Wilson will be available to talk to students and faculty at an information booth in the Carolina Union from Nov. 16-20. Sign-up sheets for interviews are at the University Placement Service. Interviews will be conducted from Nov. 17-20.

Secrist attends convention in Europe to present workshops on recreation

By LAURA SEIFERT
DTH Staff Writer

Chapel Hill interim Town Manager Ron Secrist was one of three Americans to participate in the European Recreation Society's annual conference last week.

The conference attempted to provide recreation directors at U.S. military bases in Europe with recreation solutions to the increasing drug abuse problem there, he said.

Secrist attended the conference, held Nov. 1-10 in Garmish, Germany, in his capacity as Chapel Hill Director for Parks and Recreation. He will reassume the recreation director position as soon as the town council appoints a new town manager.

The other two Americans asked to attend the conference were a professor at The University of Illinois and a cultural

director from San Jose, Calif. "I consider it an honor to be chosen," Secrist said.

European Recreation Society officials contacted Secrist last June, while he was still serving as recreation director, about conducting workshops during the conference.

"I was asked to present workshops at their expense to Americans who are providing recreation facilities on American (military) bases in Europe," he said.

The three workshops Secrist conducted dealt with answers and alternatives to the growing drug abuse problem on the military bases. The workshops were "The Organization of Youth Sports," "Public Relations" and "Performance Appraisals."

"The drug problem with young soldiers over there is similar to many experiences that we see here (in the United States)," Secrist said.

Secrist said that by sending 150 civilian recreation professionals to the conference, the military organizations, along with the European Recreation Society, were giving the drug problem more attention.

"The recreation advisers on the bases are looking for a lot of alternative means for the soldiers to spend their free time," Secrist said.

Since organized recreation activities diminish the chances for a person to participate in unstructured activities (like drug use), establishing good recreation programs is a necessity, he said.

A typical description of a "good time" on any given base, Secrist said, is "going back to the room, putting on the headphones and listening to the stereo while getting high off marijuana."

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