

# FEATURES

## Elderhostel brings over-60s to UNC

By **LYNNE THOMSON**  
Staff Writer

The parlor of Spencer dorm buzzed with talk and laughter Monday night as UNC's newest class got to know one another. But this was no freshman mixer, and when the men sitting by the window discussed the economy they referred to the depression of the 30s from memory, because the only admissions requirement to this class is that the student be over 60.

"They're the most interesting, stimulating people I've ever taught," Walter Spearman, professor emeritus of the Journalism School, said. "They bring a whole lifetime of experience to class."

Though Spearman is a contemporary of

the Elderhostelers, Political Science Professor Lewis Lipsitz also calls them a favorite class.

"They're different from undergrads," he said. "They have a lot of experience, openness and they're not shy." He characterized their attitude toward him as parental, different from the usual situation where his student's are the age of his own children.

"They're educated people, who vacation to learn," Lipsitz said, adding that many of the participants have gone to different Elderhostel programs at schools all over the country.

"They're financially better off and educationally better prepared than average," he said.

Raymond Wedlake was a professor of American History at the State University of New York in Oswego, before his retirement. He and his wife, Doris, who is the coordinator of the graduate program there, are on their first Elderhostel.

He said they were considering retiring in Asheville and so have come to Chapel Hill on their way to the mountains.

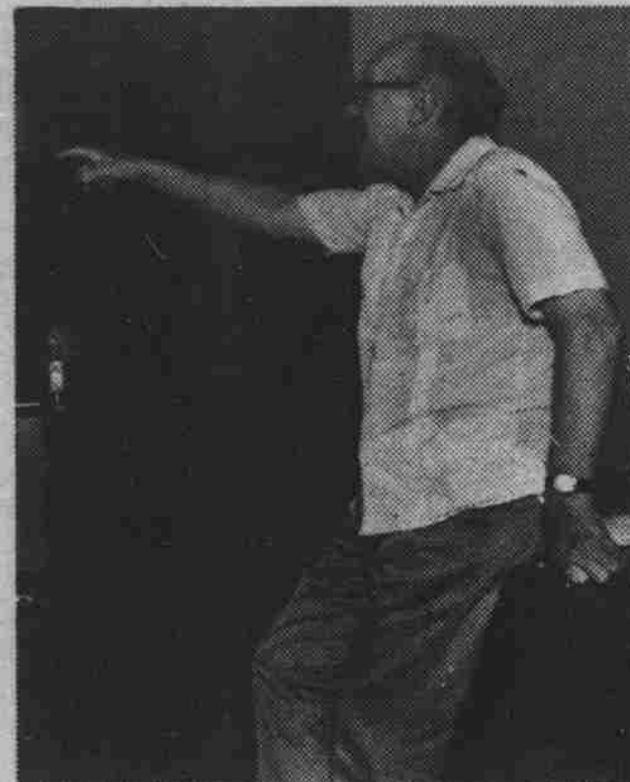
For many of the participants Elderhostel is part of a summer vacation.

"I get tired of resorts," Emily Green said. "It's really lonely (for a woman alone). This is a vibrant group."

UNC's Elderhostel offers three different courses for each of the seven weekly sessions. This week's participants are studying "The Art of Mathematics/The Mathematics of Art" with Thomas Brylawski, a professor in the mathematics department; "Astronomy: Cosmic Update" with James Manning, acting director for the Morehead Planetarium; and "Books and Ideas" with Spearman.

Lipsitz taught his class in "Literature as a Political Activity" last week.

Though there are no tests or homework, Spearman sent the participants a reading list



Tar Heel/Frank Clarkson

### Spearman leads discussion

of current bestsellers several weeks ago. In Monday's class he said that he talked about why bestsellers are bought and if they are good.

"I got a discussion going..." he said, as some of the participants began again debating the merits of *Rabbit is Rich*.



Tar Heel/Frank Clarkson

Over 60 only in Elderhostel classes

## bowl

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come so quickly and accurately he can intimidate even the best of players."

This year's championship team members are Katz, a sophomore English and Russian major from Raleigh, Haworth, a sophomore history major from Jamestown, Dough, a senior English major from Chapel Hill and Jonathan Wike, an English graduate student from Lexington.

"The Rude Boys" got their nickname from their approach to the challenging academic contest. Instead of practicing for hours a day, the UNC team has a "relaxed" attitude toward competition, members said.

"Last year we were all serious about the tournament and practiced hard daily," Dough said.

"We choked and lost to Michigan State in the finals. You don't really need to be a brain to play the game. All you really need is reckless abandon and a retentive memory."

According to an article in *News World* about the tournament, the UNC squad possessed a certain craziness. They weren't tense and were almost jovial about the whole tournament the magazine noted. An example in the article was the use of mascots by the UNC team members as they competed.

Black, a law student from Raleigh, had as a mascot "green weenie," a tube-like thing about six inches long. Dough sported a Rubik's Cube and a moose puppet. "These are our totems," explained Black, who carried around a book about the spontaneous combustion of humans.

By winning the National College Bowl championship, the UNC team won a share of a \$20,000 check from *Time* magazine and CBS broadcasting. The money will be distributed to participating schools in the name of the College Bowl Foundation.

## Chapel Hill ranked high for services

From Staff Reports

A recent study conducted by the city of Oak Ridge Tennessee, listed Chapel Hill as one of only 14 U.S. cities meeting at least six of seven standards of service provision.

The survey examined U.S. cities with populations of 10,000 or more for service in police, fire and refuse collection. Street maintenance, library circulation, parks and recreation facilities, and financial administration were also studied.

Oak Ridge will use the survey to try to "determine relevant cost-of-service differences and relate those differences to organizational characteristics (of the cities)."

Greensboro was the only other North Carolina city meeting at least six of the seven standards for service. Eleven of the fourteen cities are located in the south.

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