

Center aids in settlement of disputes

By KAREN FISHER
Staff Writer

It's midnight. The dorm is quiet. Jim is bent intently over chemistry notes, cramming for the morning's midterm.

Next door, Tom lifts the cover of his stereo. He turns some buttons, places the needle on the record.

Jim jumps, startled, as Springsteen invades his concentration. With all his might, he kicks the wall between the rooms.

A crash, the sound of shattering glass; Tom curses loudly.

The conflict may end there. It may not. Chances are Jim and Tom do not know about a small house-like building at 205 N. Columbia St. They might get along better if they did.

The Dispute Settlement Center, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization, helps resolve conflicts. Through a neutral third person, called a mediator, disputants voluntarily reach a mutually acceptable compromise.

"The mediators do not try to solve the problems for the people," said Cheryl Bryant, a UNC student intern for the center. "They try to create an atmosphere so they can facilitate discussion, so that the disputants can solve their own problems."

The 23 mediators, trained by the center and the U.S. Department of Justice, come from the community so that people will feel comfortable with them, Bryant said. They are volunteers, black and white, men and women, ages 25 to 70. They come from all walks of life: teacher, mechanic, retired dentist, homemaker.

The center, which had a 95 percent success rate in settling conflicts last year, is one of 140 mediation programs across the country. The center is funded by both private and government grants.

"I guess the most interesting thing is the



DTH/Jeff Neuville

Dispute Center mediators Lil Smith (left) and Beth Okun ...work to help this couple settle a simulated dispute

whole idea that this is an alternative to courts," Bryant said.

The center can provide a no-cost, confidential alternative when court is not necessary. Many cases are referred by the district attorney, lawyers and judges. Others come from the community.

The center handles many different types of conflicts: disputes between employers and employees, husbands and wives, landlords and tenants, roommates. It handles criminal charges of assault, communicating threat, trespass, injury to property, breaking and entering, and larceny.

There are some cases the center does not handle. "Like battered women," Bryant said. "That type of case we don't feel like we're equipped to deal with."

Because so many cases begin as criminal charges, there is always a fear that disputes will get out of hand or become violent during mediation, said Lil Smith, director of the center. So far, in the three years the center has been open, that has not happened.

"Some of them walk in here and they're ready to bite nails and spit rust," Smith said.

"But generally, by the time they get in there and start going through (the mediation process),

when you sit down at a table with them and you're talking to them for an hour or two hours, it starts diffusing.

"We try to sit them so they're not in a confrontational position, so they don't look across the table at one another.

"Most people, by the time they agree to come down here and start talking, have started to deal with this in a somewhat rational framework, so they're a little bit calmer than you might think."

Once a compromise is reached, the parties are asked to sign a written agreement.

"The agreement is not legally binding," Bryant said, "but we feel that it has a moral binding. If people will write it out, we feel they are more prone to stick to it."

One group the center would like to help more is the University community — faculty, staff and students — Bryant said.

"We feel that the University students are not aware of services like they should be.

"One area we especially want to concentrate on is roommate conflicts because most people on campus live with somebody. If they have a conflict with their roommates, if they don't work it out themselves, there's nowhere for them to turn that's free. This is one alternative for them."

Local gas prices dip, follow nationwide trend

By KATHERINE FARLEY
Staff Writer

The price of gasoline has fallen below the dollar mark in Chapel Hill for the first time since January 1980, following the nationwide trend of sharply declining prices that began in early 1982.

Walker's Gulf, of 1500 E. Franklin St., is selling self-service regular at 99.9 cents a gallon. Steve Spinson, an employee of Walker's Gulf,

said the price dropped Saturday, Feb. 12. He said he expected that prices would continue to fall slightly.

Fifteen area service stations were surveyed and Walker's is the only station that has fallen under a dollar. The owners of most of the local stations said they expected prices to fall below a dollar.

Jim Foster, of Sav-a-ton on East Main Street in Carrboro, said that their prices should go below a dollar and that he was "working on it."

Asked what declining prices are doing for profits, Foster said, "It's definitely helping business."

Gordon Brasington, of Gordon's Gulf Service, explained that the reason some stations could sell gas cheaper than others was because company-owned stations buy gasoline for less than privately-owned stations.

"Company-owned stations can get gasoline six cents a gallon cheaper than what it costs me," Brasington said.

Union coffeehouse to offer music, study break

Anyone interested in a different kind of study break? If so, here is a chance to sit back and enjoy some live entertainment in a coffeehouse atmosphere on campus.

From 8:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. today, the Carolina Union will hold an informal coffeehouse at the Union Snack Bar, featuring Jim Fletcher, a classical guitarist and mandolin player. Fletcher graduated in 1972 from the N.C. School of the Arts with a music degree.

He has presented guitar recitals in Rome, other Italian cities, in Spain and throughout America and has provided local musical entertainment in the Pit and the Sunshine Cafe. Fletcher works at Oxbow Music Co.

Tonight he will present a program that demonstrates classical influence in rock music, such as Jethro Tull

and the Doors.

"Students seem to come in the Union around this time of night to take study breaks anyway," said Ellie Jeffers, the Union's social committee chairperson. "We just want to create an informal coffeehouse type of atmosphere where students can drift in and out and not have to stay for the whole two hours," she said. Jeffers explained that the coffeehouse was a new idea but would be held again next year if it went over well with students.

During the coffeehouse, students will also receive a 10 percent discount on all snack bar items.

— JULIE HAACK

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Compiled by Janet Olson

Public service announcements must be turned into the box outside the DTH offices in the Carolina Union by 1 p.m. if they are to be run the next day. Only announcements from University recognized and campus organizations will be printed. All announcements must be limited to 25 words and can only run for two days.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

The Outing Club Kayak Roll clinic will be held tonight. Anyone interested must contact Sue Gardner at 929-3347.

Students interested in applying for Union committee chairmanships are invited to attend an Open House in the Gallery at 4 p.m.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will meet at 8:30 p.m. in the Carolina Union. Don Lockerie, track coach, will be the guest speaker. Bring a friend.

There will be a Campus Governing Council meeting for both new and old members at 6 p.m. in 301 Greenleaf Hall.

"We Stopped the Klan", a videotape of the spartan league-initiated labor/black mobilization on Nov. 27 which prevented the Klan from marching in Washington, D.C., will be shown at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Carolina Union.

A panel discussion entitled "I'd Rather Do It Myself: How to Start and Maintain Your Own Law Practice" will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Law Building, Classroom 2.

Interested in Italian Opera? Come to a survey of Italian Opera sponsored by the UNC Italian Club at 7:30 p.m. in 103 Hill Hall. Admission is free.

There will be a second planning meeting of the Undergraduate History Association at 4 p.m. in 369 Hamilton Hall.

ASPA will hold a meeting at 5:30 p.m. in T-7 New Carroll Hall. Mark Patrick will speak on the theory of Japanese management.

Tom Lambert's Black/White Group will meet at 8 p.m. at the Undergraduate Library for a study break. Newcomers are welcome.

The BSU Thursday program will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the Baptist Center.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will hold an all campus meeting at 7 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. John Alexander will speak on "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Committee on Undergraduate Education members can pick up survey posters in the Cue box of the Campus Y Office.

Dick Purcell knows and he's telling. Hear Dick at the Campus Crusade for Christ weekly meeting at 8 p.m. in 224 Carolina Union.

Campus Christian Fellowship will hold its weekly Bible study at 7 p.m. at the Campus House, 204 Glenburnie. The topic will be the Book of James.

COMING EVENTS

Study in Britain? Consider University of Glasgow. Meet representatives from the University of Glasgow at 9:30 a.m. Friday in the Carolina Union.

The UNC Clogging Club and the Apple Chill Cloggers will sponsor a square dance at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Church on Purefoy Road. Admission is \$2 at the door.

The UNC Jazz Festival will be held at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Hill Hall auditorium. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Join several ASF members in an informal community break-fast at 10 a.m. each Saturday at 127 North St. Bring a \$1 donation and/or food. Everyone is welcome. Call 942-2206.

The African/Afro-American studies department will sponsor a lecture on the contributions of black leaders to American society at 7 p.m. Sunday in 111 Murphy Hall.

The Sunday Afternoon Union Gallery Lecture Series presents "2,000 Years of Nigerian Art" at 2 p.m. Sunday and Dr. Mark on African art at 5 p.m. in 102 Union auditorium.

A 20th-century chamber music ensemble will be presented at 8:15 p.m. Sunday at the Playmakers Theatre. The free, public concert will feature UNC music faculty.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Student Health Service is offering a five week weight management group emphasizing positive lifestyle behaviors. Pre-screening interview is mandatory. Call 966-2281 ext. 275 before Mar. 9.

Special Olympics Coaches are needed to volunteer one hour per week to train a handicapped child. No experience is required. Call 968-4507 to sign up.

Class of 1983 Summer Scholarship applications are available at the International Center. There are three \$1000 scholarships. Applications are due March 14.

Applications to the German Exchange Programs Scholarships to Düsseldorf and Göttingen are available at the International Center and are due Feb. 23.

This is the last chance for the 1983 Yachety Yack portraits. Call 962-3912 for appointments.

Sexuality Education & Counseling Service offers confidential peer counseling for students in all areas of sexuality. Stop by Suite B, Carolina Union or call 962-5505.

Nominations for the Students of James are due Feb. 18 at 103-A Carr Building. Extra forms are available at 103-A Carr or at the Union Desk.



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