

On

Campus

Susan Grey Akers, the first woman academic dean at UNC died Monday at the Hillhaven Convalescent Center of Chapel Hill. She was 94.

Akers was a former director and dean of the School of Library Science at the University. She was one of the original faculty members of the School of Library Science when it opened in 1931. She was named acting dean in 1932, when Louis Round Wilson left the school. Akers was named director of the school in 1935, and in 1942 her title was changed to dean.

A recently hired employee of UNC's University Dining Services is working to make cafeteria meals more appealing both taste-wise and health-wise to students and faculty.

"One of the main goals here is to improve the quality (of food) and to get a little more variation in what we offer," said Phyllis Smith, who became the University's first registered dietician about three weeks ago. "We're trying to become a little more nutritionally oriented, too," she added.

Smith, who was hired through ARA Services, with whom she has worked for three years, said she has already set up a three-week cycle of meats, breads and desserts that will make the meals in the Pine Room more nutritious and well-balanced.

UNC's Institute for Environmental Studies will host a series of seminars during the semester on the topic of risk analysis.

Risk analysis is the process by which a society sets acceptable levels for hazardous substances in the environment.

The seminars will culminate with the Carolina Environmental Essay, an address to be held at 4 p.m. March 14 in Rosenau Hall. The address will be

given this year by Dr. Edward Calabrese, professor of environmental health at the University of Massachusetts. Calabrese will speak on "The Environmental Gender Gap: Differential Responses to Pollution by Men and Women."

Sign-up dates for this semester's special interest classes at the Union will be Feb. 6, 7 and 8 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. This semester several new classes will be added such as a course in American Sign Language, Astrology, and Tai-Chi, a form of martial art.

"We were concerned last year because most of the classes were oriented toward girls; this semester there are more offered for men," said Laura Kirby, chairman of the Union Special Class Committee.

Many of the instructors have background in their area, Kirby said. Most have either taught the course before or have taken enough lessons that they feel confident in teaching it, she said.

The UNC Individual Events team of the Forensics Union recently won the first-place sweepstakes award defeating 17 other major universities including the University of Alabama and the host school, UNC-Wilmington.

Seniors Sammy Hill and Joanne Gilbert tied for first place individual sweepstakes, while team members Vikki Barrett, Pam Parker, Lori Young, Lisa Smith, Jim Fitzgerald and Jeff Knight all won top honors contributing to the team's first place win.

At the last debate tournament at West Georgia College, UNC placed in a tie for fifth place out of 45 teams from across the nation.

Jeremy Ofseyer and Mike Eques, both of Dallas, Texas, qualified seven of their eight preliminary debates for elimination debate. Ofseyer also placed sixth as individual speaker.

Flu outbreak among UNC students called epidemic

By RICHARD J. BOYCE
Staff Writer

A flu virus among people under 25 is sweeping across North Carolina, taking an especially heavy toll on UNC students, health officials said this week.

Dr. Newt MacCormack, acting head of the N.C. Division of Health Services' communicable disease control branch, said 225 cases were reported at the University last week — more than at any other college campus in the UNC system. The week before, 150 cases were reported here, while three weeks ago saw no cases of the flu.

Other colleges in the UNC system also are experiencing outbreaks of the flu but have not seen the number of cases that Chapel Hill has, MacCormack said. UNC-Greensboro has the second greatest number of reported sicknesses, for instance, with 98 students afflicted last week, he said.

This particular strain of the flu — A-Philippines — is a form of the Russian flu, first isolated by scientists in 1977. It is mainly affecting people of college age or

younger because a similar strain of the flu hit the United States from 1947 to 1957. Most people born before 1957 have built an immunity to the virus, MacCormack said.

The number affected by the virus, however, is considerably higher than the official reports show, said Dr. James McCutchan of the UNC Student Health Services.

"The only people Student Health Service reports are those with temperatures of 101 or more and with all the flu symptoms. If we can't identify them for sure as having the flu, we don't report them," he said.

"We saw a lot of people Monday who had it. But Tuesday, the number decreased. We hope it's passed the point of being an epidemic."

MacCormack classified the current outbreak as an epidemic, but the term could be a little misleading to the public, he said. To an epidemiologist, an epidemic is defined as "An unusual occurrence." And that is what UNC students are now experiencing, he said.

Flu viruses spread rapidly because they require a short incubation period of only 24 to 72 hours, MacCormack said. Once started, the virus can spread quickly.

Last week, 557 cases were reported at 10 college cam-

puses across North Carolina. N.C. State University recorded 67, down from 91 the week before. MacCormack calls infirmity officials at each of the 10 campuses every Friday for updates.

Among elementary and high schools, Wake County schools reported an absenteeism rate of almost 50 percent two weeks ago, MacCormack said. But the epidemic there is on the decline. Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools reported that about 15 percent of all students were absent two weeks ago.

MacCormack warned that children should not take regular aspirin for treatment of flu symptoms because of the possibility of contracting Reye's Syndrome, a disease first identified in 1963 and associated with this particular strain of flu. Reye's Syndrome causes a fattening of the liver and a swelling in the brain that is fatal in 10-15 percent of all cases, he said.

Children who need medication should take an aspirin substitute, MacCormack said.

Staff writer Beth O'Kelley contributed to this story.

Carrboro aldermen send thoroughfare plan to transportation board

By JIM HOFFMAN
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted 4-3 Tuesday night to send its own version of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro thoroughfare plan to the N.C. Board of Transportation for approval.

The plan, which was adopted in November, includes a controversial proposal to extend Estes Drive east from Chapel Hill to I-40, which is being built through Orange County. The Chapel Hill Town Council has opposed the extension and will submit to the state board of Transportation a separate plan without it. The Carrboro board considers the extension important because it would solve access problems on Greensboro Street and U.S. 15-501 Bypass, aldermen have said.

Edison H. Johnson Jr., an engineer from the N.C. Department of Transportation who has been involved in the thoroughfare study, told aldermen however, that the submission of two plans could jeopardize approval by the

23-member state board. In the past, the board has not considered area thoroughfare plans when differences existed between two closely integrated towns, he said.

At one point in the meeting, Alderman Jim White made a motion to adopt the Chapel Hill plan without the extension but withdrew it when Johnson said the board would lose some of the bargaining power it held under the present situation.

White made the motion at the recommendation of Mayor Jim Porto, who proposed dropping the Estes Drive extension plan "in the interest of community harmony."

Porto had hoped the board could review the plan annual and amend it to include the extension in the future. But Johnson said that once the thoroughfare plan was approved only Chapel Hill could submit a proposal to include the extension because the proposed road would be in its planning jurisdiction.

White then submitted a motion to send Carrboro's version of the plan. Aldermen

John Boone and Zona Norwood voted for the motion, along with White, while aldermen Doug Anderson, Hilliard Caldwell and Joyce Garrett voted against it. Porto, who can only vote in case of a tie, broke the 3-3 deadlock in favor of sending the town's own plan.

In other business, the board approved an application of Rogers-Triem, Inc. for a \$200,000 low-interest loan through the Towns Community Development Block Grant Program.

The Carrboro company, which makes small motors for vending machines, will spend the money on equipment to expand

their assembly lines. The expansion will create 41 low- to moderate-income jobs, according to Roy Williford of the town staff.

The board also decided to continue discussion on a Conditional-use permit amendment, which has been requested by the Real Estate Ventures Corporation to build 270 rental apartment units. The company already has a permit to build 273 owner-occupied townhouse units.

A number of area residents have opposed the project because they fear it would cause erosion problems and lower their property values.



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