

No hope for unadopted pets in shelters

By VANESSA ORR
Staff Writer

One week. That is all the animals at the Animal Protection Society have left until they are put to death, and the chances of adoption are slim.

The majority of the animals have been placed in the shelter by owners who no longer want them or picked up by animal control officers. Not all of the animals are strays. Many tagged animals have shown up at the shelter because they were picked up wandering or found loose.

"We always try to find the owner. We trace tags and check lost reports, whether out-of-state or cross-country," shelter manager Frances Stagg said.

Over 5,000 animals pass through the Animal Protection Society every year. The animals that come in receive medical attention, including cleaning, deworming and shots. Strays are held a full week, during which they are available for adoption. Tagged animals are held a week to be reclaimed and then a week for adoption. When the week is up, the animals are killed with a shot of pentobarbital.

"While the animals are at the shelter, they are treated as well as possible," Stagg said.

The cats stay in newspaper-lined cages and are let out daily to play with toys for what Stagg calls "floor exercises." The dogs have indoor-outdoor runs and are walked often by volunteers.

There are three full-time and one part-time staff members, but "lots of great volunteers" according to Stagg. The volunteers do housework, bathe and groom the dogs and also walk the animals. Anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome.

The funds for the Society are provided by both Orange County and the shelter. The county provides under 50 percent of the money needed, so APS conducts fund-raisers to supply the balance.

This year the Society will hold its annual auction Nov. 17 and 18 at Carr Mill Mall. The Society will also conduct membership drives and accept donations from the public.

The cost of keeping an animal at the shelter is partially covered by the adoption charges. The shelter charges \$37 for dogs and \$27 for cats, but \$30 for dogs and \$20 for cats is refunded when the animal is spayed or neutered. Reclamation charges are \$5, with a boarding charge of \$5 a day for the lost pets.

All funds do not go directly to the shelter.

There are three services which the shelter provides to help both humans and animals.

The first is a 24-hour emergency service. "This service is usually confined to medical emergencies and only for stray animals," Stagg said. "The shelter will help a pet owner, but we feel that the owner should accept responsibility for their animal."

The second service is the Humane Education Committee. "We try to alert people to current legislation dealing with animals," Stagg said.

The society also runs the WRRN, which is the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Network. "We handle anything and everything, though it is not all kept at the shelter," Stagg said. The Society has specially-trained volunteers who take care of wild animals until the animals are ready to return to their natural habitats.

Unfortunately, there is no return for the majority of the animals at the shelter. The adoption rate is only about 13 percent, and only 12 percent of the animals are reclaimed by owners. Stagg suggested how this can be prevented.

"Put an ID on your animal. State law requires a rabies tag, and we can trace that. If you love your pet, get ID on him."



Vicki Castle takes care of animals during their week's stay at the Animal Protection Society.

Former student Mrs. Jesse Helms recalls UNC years

By TOM CONLON
Staff Writer

Dorothy Coble Helms, a former journalism student who moved from newspaper reporting to becoming wife of a future U.S. Senator, fondly recalls her years at the University.

Now married to Sen. Jesse Helms, she spends most of her time in Washington, D.C., but many of her memories — social life, education and leadership — come from her two years in Chapel Hill.

"In 1938 I went to UNC from Meredith College in Raleigh," Helms said. "Back then, women were not allowed to enter UNC until they were juniors."

The Department of Journalism, which she entered upon transfer to the University, had three faculty members and was located in Bynum Hall. The journalism department did not become a school until 1950.

As a junior, Helms and her Spencer dormitory roommate did a joint column for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

"We covered miscellaneous subjects — campus events, human interest, features — in our weekly column," she said. "I never covered any politics then — I really wasn't that interested in it."

Besides publications, Helms also served in student leadership positions. McIver dormitory, where she had moved her senior year, had been completed by the fall of 1939. She was elected its first dorm president.

"Back then, Graham Memorial (then the student union) was the center of campus social life," she said. "You'd find large groups of students sitting together and singing around the fireplace. There were more dances, and homecoming was a big part of the year. All that seems to have changed today."

A Raleigh native and alumnus of the old Hugh Morson High School (site of today's Federal Building), Helms returned home upon graduation from UNC and worked as a writer in the women's department for *The News and Observer*.

She later became society editor, and



Helms

during her two and one-half years at the paper, met Jesse, her future hus-

band. Jesse, who worked in the features and sports departments, married Dorothy during World War II.

"We became more interested in politics while Jesse was on the council and later as a television editorial commentator," she said. "Jesse decided to run for the U.S. Senate in 1972 and we've been in Washington, D.C., since."

Jesse Helms, a Republican, faces a 1984 re-election challenge from Gov. Jim Hunt.

Washington political life limits family time, but the Helms' make frequent weekend trips back to North Carolina, mainly for official business and the upcoming campaign, Helms said.

"But we still remember our college days," she said. "In sports I'll root for Carolina; Jesse will root for Wake Forest (where he attended school), and sometimes both of us will root for N.C. State since our son went there. But we always support a North Carolina school because our college days were so important in our lives."

Contemporary play gets exposure at ArtSchool

By FRANK BRUNI
Staff Writer

It is not often, in this neck of the woods, that the talents of younger, more eccentric contemporary playwrights receive wide exposure. This is one of the reasons Linda Wright is excited about the ArtSchool's presentation of Sam Shepard's *True West*.

"A main goal was to give exposure to one of the newer American playwrights," said Wright, director of the production. With a Pulitzer for *Buried Child* and an Obie award for *Fool for Love*, Shepard qualifies as one of the foremost of these playwrights.

Collaborating with Wright on the project are actors Tom Marriott and Peter Anlyan, who will tackle the lead roles of two brothers confronting a long-suppressed sibling rivalry in their vacationing mother's home at the western edge of the Mojave desert.

Wright said she had worked before with Marriott and Anlyan, both Triangle area actors, and that one of her motivations for staging *True West* simply was finding a play on which the three could work together.

"Part of our concern was the product," Wright said, "but part of it was also the process. We wanted to do some exploration; I guess you could call it a meeting of the minds. *True West* made sense for us in terms of who these men are that they (Marriott and Anlyan) could portray."

Wright said that the "newness" of the play, which recently enjoyed a lengthy run off-Broadway and soon will open in Los Angeles, also made it an exciting choice. It was not without a certain degree of dedica-

tion, however, that *True West* evolved into what Wright promises is a "quality production."

"All of us have other things we do in the real world," said Wright, whose 9-to-5 job is as assistant director of the Carolina Union. The relatively brief rehearsal period of 5½ weeks, Wright said, was frequently interrupted due to the many other commitments she, Marriott and Anlyan all have.

If theatre is not Wright's bread-and-butter, then it is certainly her champagne. She has directed four previous productions at the ArtSchool, including plays by David Mamet and Clifford Odets, and has worked with the Durham Theatre Guild.

Wright said that she has not seen a production of *True West* and is glad she hasn't. "Part of our thrust is authenticity," she said, boasting that while the off-Broadway production of the play used a soundtrack of wolf howls where the script calls for coyotes, the ArtSchool's production of the play will have the real thing.

Of the oft-cited inaccessibility of Shepard's work, Wright admitted, "He's not everyone's cup of tea, but whether you like him or not, he's certainly representative of one side of our culture."

It is a side, Wright feels, that receives all too little attention in this area, and it is her aim with *True West* to give that perspective as thoughtful and entertaining a showcase as possible.

True West will be performed Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. through Oct. 6 at the ArtSchool. Call 929-2896 for ticket information.

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