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News

TOPS eases students into Carolina

By Lane Mitchell
Staff Writer

Carolina Testing and Orientation Program Sessions, TOPS, is a summer orientation program designed to ease incoming freshman and their parents into their new lifestyle at Carolina.

Orientation has always been a student run program. In the past it had primarily been a fall program taking place the first week the freshmen arrived on campus.

This is the first year for the summer

orientation, a program which allows for a more gradual adjustment to Carolina. "The TOPS program was extremely helpful. This program removed some of the apprehension that accompanies a new environment," said incoming freshman Paul Johnson from Greensboro.

The summer orientation also provides a less stressful situation in which to take the two required placement tests, math and foreign language. "Anything that allows a freshmen to take one of these

placement tests and not be under a lot of stress is a great advantage," said orientation assistant Jeff Strickland.

The TOPS program is run by 10 commissioners appointed in November and 18 assistants appointed in April. The 28 staff members were chosen by last year's orientation staff.

Sixty-six applied for the 18 orientation assistant positions, with the final selections made by the commissioners. "We chose people who exhibited a solid scholastic base,

were outgoing, creative and adaptable," orientation commissioner Tripp Doepner said.

Most of the orientation staff, commissioners and assistants, had been involved in orientation in their previous years at Carolina; all have been specially trained to aid a student's transition into the University.

During the summer the orientation staff lives in Chapel Hill and meets daily to map out three separate orientation programs for freshman, junior transfers, and graduate and professional students.

"Each of these three groups of students has a special set of concerns about their new UNC experience," Shirley Hunter, associate dean of students and director of the TOPS program. "The orientation staff tries to pinpoint these concerns and prepare themselves adequately to answer any question that a new student might have about the University."

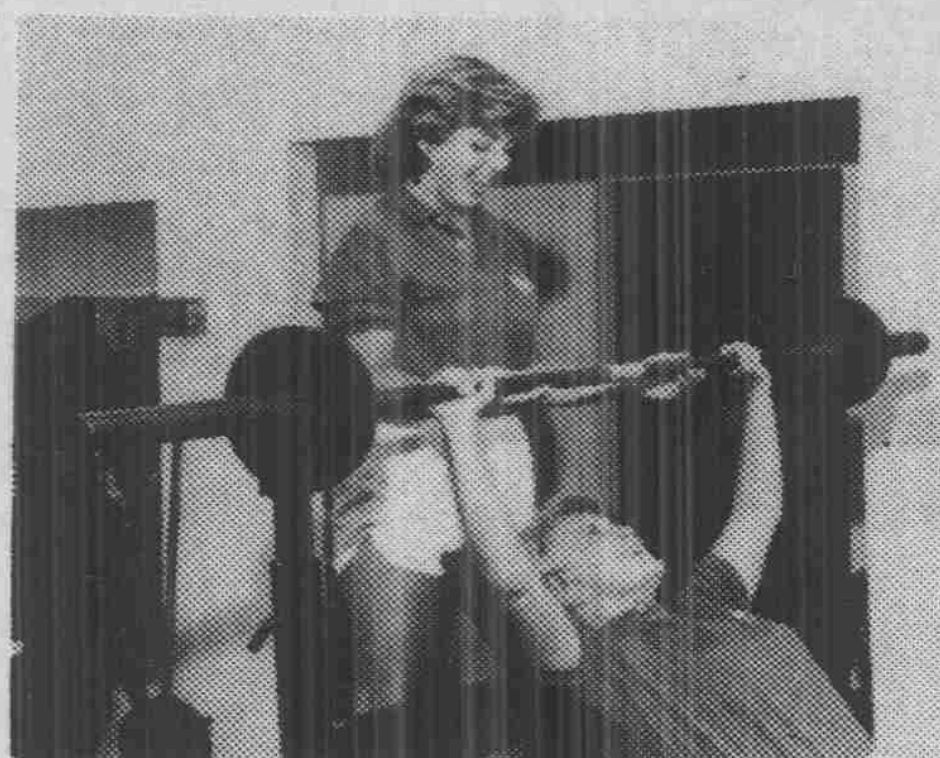
According to Hunter, the University expects at least 3400 freshmen this fall, all of whom will attend an orientation session this summer.

Each orientation day begins at 8:00 a.m. where both students and parents must register for the day in front of South Building. They are then able to take a campus tour or eat a light breakfast of donuts and juice in Y Court before attending the Opening Session in Memorial Auditorium.

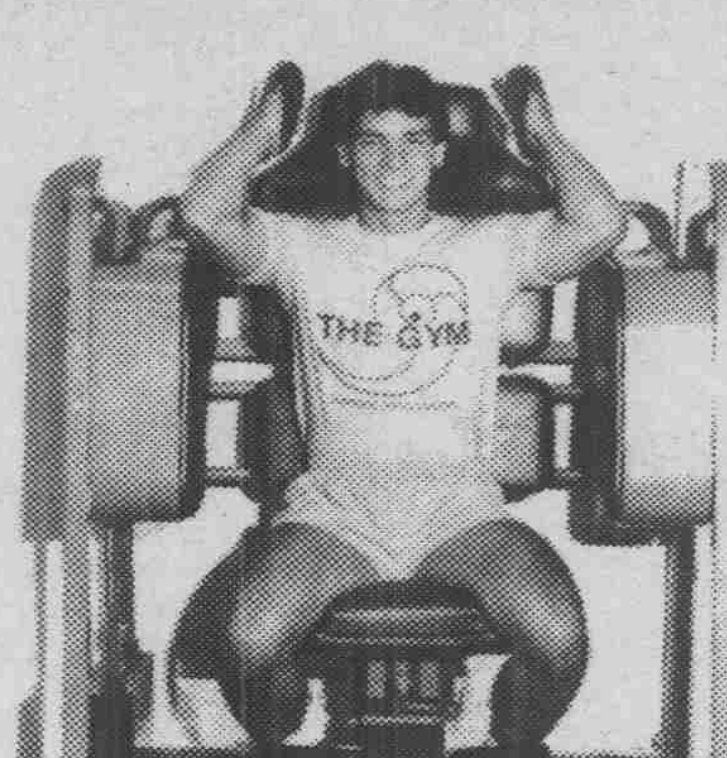
This is the last time parents and students will be together, save lunch,

See TOPS page 17

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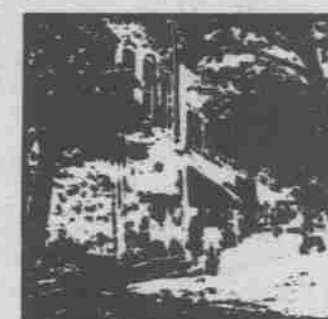
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