

# Service assists pregnant women

By **SONYA TERRELL**  
Special to the *TH*

"I don't love the father of this child. And I don't want to get married. I'm right in the middle of college. What about my parents? Abortion? Everything was perfect until now. Now? What can I do now?"

This is not a script for a commercial. It is a typical monologue for more than 200 UNC women who must deal with unwanted pregnancies each year, according to Mary L. Brown, clinical director of Pregnancy Support Services.

Statistics for unmarried pregnant women younger than 19 totaled 192 last year in Orange County, according to records from the Orange County Health Department.

Several things can lead to unwanted pregnancies, including lack of sex education and lack of previously obtained contraceptives for moments of unexpected passion, said Kathy Kerr, director of Women's Health Counseling Service.

In this age of sexual revolution, youth think they know everything about sex, Kerr said. Unfortunately, young people are unaware of some of the responsibilities and consequences accompanying sexual activity, she said.

Orange County women with unwanted pregnancies can contact many organizations for counseling and support.

Pregnancy Support Services is a non-profit organization that offers free and confidential services to women in crisis pregnancy situations, Brown said. PSS also provides pregnancy testing and information about pregnancy and abortion, she said.

More than 200 women with unwanted pregnancies receive counseling at PSS each year, Brown said. About 85 percent of the women are University students who consider their pregnancy a crisis, she said.

PSS is funded by private and church donations.

"The Christian community felt that abortions were readily available, but there were not enough alternatives presented," Brown said. "We question the women about why their pregnancy is a crisis and give them options."

PSS does not take a political stance on abortion, Brown said.

"Every woman must make her own choice; I can't tell her what to do," she said. "We don't counsel on abortion, and we don't refer any of the women to abortion clinics."

But PSS does provide post-abortion counseling, Brown said. It also provides housing in local private homes for pregnant women, she said.

"Peers don't understand what a girl goes through during her pregnancy," Brown said. The private family provides extra emotional support and is an alternative to long-distance maternity housing, she said.

PSS also counsels men, Brown said. Troubled men come to the clinic to discuss their problems in dealing with someone's pregnancy, she said.

The Women's Health Counseling Service provides free, confidential, non-judgmental counseling, Kerr said.

Counselors help pregnant women consider options and how each option may fit into future plans, she said.

In reference to the Women's Health Counseling Services' stance on abortion, Kerr said, "We do feel strongly that women have a choice and are able to take charge of their life, and that right should not be taken away."

Kerr estimated 90 percent of the students with unwanted pregnancies who received counseling at Women's Health Counseling Service chose to have abortions.

Women's Health Counseling Service supplies three referrals for health-care providers, Kerr said.

"We don't endorse one particular physician or

clinic," she said. "We want to remain objective and non-judgmental."

Women's Health Counseling Service also provides feedback files, Kerr said. Patients, who remain anonymous, evaluate the treatment they received from their health care provider, Kerr said.

Women's Health Counseling Service is funded by Orange County, the town of Carrboro, The United Way of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, private donations and program fees, Kerr said.

Many women with unwanted pregnancies choose abortion. Of the 192 pregnant unmarried women younger than 19 last year in Orange County, 145 — or 76 percent — had abortions, according to records from the Orange County Health Department.

The actual abortion process takes seven to 10 minutes, though labwork, pre-counseling and post-counseling sessions take a few hours, said Jessica High, clinic administrator at a local abortion clinic.

"If the woman is sure and decided she wants to have an abortion, she might could have the procedure the next day," High said. Potential feelings of guilt and regret are discussed during the counseling sessions, she said. The cost of the abortion depends on when the pregnancy is terminated, High said.

A pregnancy terminated during the first 12 weeks usually costs about \$200; 12 to 14 weeks, \$300; 15 to 18 weeks, \$500; 18 to 20 weeks, \$1,200 plus hospital costs, High said.

Pregnancies terminated beyond the 18th week legally require hospital facilities.

"Legally, parental consent is not required," High said.

High estimated the average age of the women having abortions at the abortion clinic where she works was between 21 and 25.

Only certified obstetrician-gynecologists may perform abortions, High said. Abortion clinics must be certified by the state, she added.

## Italian cruise ship hijacked

From wire reports

ROME — Palestine Liberation Organization commandoes seized an Italian cruise ship Monday, demanding the release of 50 Palestinians being held in Israel and threatening to blow up the vessel if the demands are not met.

The ship Achille Lauro, carrying 450 passengers, was loaded with a large amount of explosives, the Cable News Network reported. It was not known if any Americans were on board.

The Italian news agency ANSA and the Italian Foreign Ministry said PLO commandoes blocked and boarded the ship off the Mediterranean coast of Alexandria, Egypt. The ship was headed from Alexandria to Port Said, Egypt.

Conflicting reports circulated regarding the number of hijackers. Italian sources said one commando took over the ship, while Egyptian sources reported that a seven-man team hijacked the vessel.

### Filibuster delays Senate

WASHINGTON — The White House urged the Senate Monday to act quickly to end a filibuster delaying action on the debt ceiling increase.

President Reagan encouraged the Senate to act through his chief spokesman Larry Speakes. If the filibuster is not ended, government checks could bounce as early as

## news in brief

today.

The Senate did not act on an increase in the debt ceiling in a session Sunday. There is little chance of a bill being sent to Reagan in time to avoid a credit crisis.

### Freeway pileup kills 10

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A freeway pileup involving 33 vehicles at 4 p.m. Sunday killed 10 people and injured 43, officials said.

A cloud of smoke from a grassfire blew over Interstate 5, causing the five-minute accident. Northbound lanes on the major north-south freeway were closed for over eight hours as workers freed dead bodies from the wreckage.

### Orchestral arranger dies

LOS ANGELES — Nelson Riddle, the famous orchestral arranger and television score writer, died Sunday of kidney failure at age 64.

Riddle died at Cedars Sinai Medical Center where he had been a patient since Sept. 30, a spokesman said.

Riddle worked with Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland and Linda Ronstadt. He was nominated for five Academy Awards for movie scores.

### Panel discussion: life science careers

Careers in life sciences will be presented in a panel discussion today at 7 p.m. in Hanes Hall. Panelists will be Northrup Services Inc., Environmental Services and the Research Triangle Institute.

The discussion is part of a series presented by UNC Career Planning and Placement Services. On Oct. 15 careers in economics will be discussed.

### Lecture series hosts associate professor

Peter Lange, an associate professor of political science at Duke University, will give a speech on "The Political Economy of Consensual Wage Regulation" today at 12:30 in 02-04 Manning Hall.

The speech is part of series of luncheon colloquia for social science researchers sponsored by the Institute for Research in Social Sciences. Fruit and beverages will be provided.

### Campus Calendar

#### Tuesday

- 10:00 a.m. Alpha Phi Omega sponsoring a bloodmobile in the Great Hall until 3:00 p.m. Appearing will be Foxy 107.
- 12:30 p.m. International Health Forum hosting Dimi Stephen and Chris Harlan of the Tri-County Community Health Clinic for "Health Care of Migrant Farmworkers in N.C.," in 105 Berryhill.
- 5:30 p.m. Hunger Responsibility Committee meeting in the Campus Y Lounge.
- 7:00 p.m. North Carolina Student Legislature meeting in 226 Union.

The Navigators hosting small group Bible discussion in Morrison Recreation Room, 1st floor Lounge.

7:30 p.m. UNC Sailing Club meeting in 220 Union.

8:00 p.m. UNC Young Democrats hosting Orange County District Attorney Carl Fox, "Justice of the Democratic Party," in 224 Union.

Students for America meeting in 213 Union.

Student Television holding a mandatory meeting for Video Yearbook in 218 Union.

### OPTOMETRY CAREER CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 10

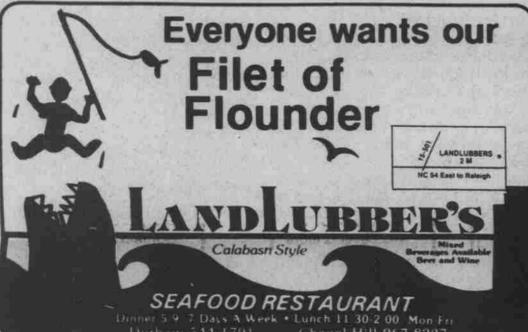
2:00 - 5:00

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## CROSSFIRE

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