

City community center opens after renovations

By SUSAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Community Center on Estes Drive across from the post office has reopened its doors after a two-week renovation period.

The center closed from Aug. 18 to Sept. 2, to carry out maintenance repairs such as rewaxing the gym floor and touching up the paint, according to Brian Curran, an employee.

The center closes annually to make such corrections, he said.

There had been plans to resurface the pool, Mike Loveman, director of the center, said, but the drought

made it impossible to drain the pool and then refill it.

The center now plans to carry out the resurfacing during the first two weeks of December, unless the voluntary water conservation request has not been lifted, he said.

The pool runs on a filter system which makes it possible to reuse the water, he said. It is covered with a thermal blanket at night.

The community center, sponsored by both Chapel Hill and Orange County, opened Dec. 7, 1980. Funds were raised through a bond referendum for the Parks and Recreation

Department in 1976.

The facilities at the center include a gymnasium, an indoor pool, men's and women's locker rooms and a meeting room. Swim teams of all ages participate in meets throughout the year.

There are several open swims during the week. Classes in scuba diving, life saving and swimming instruction are offered as well.

The center also rents out space for group meetings, sponsors a bridge group and provides facilities for local basketball and volleyball leagues.

The center is staffed mostly by

parttime college students, Loveman said. Two major activities it will hold this year will be the annual Book Fair, which runs over a three-day period, and an auction in November to raise money for the Animal Protection Society.

Money to run the facilities comes mainly from taxes, but according to Loveman, the center collects the highest revenue from registration fees of any of the other centers in Chapel Hill, such as the Hargraves Center.

For more information, call the community center at 967-2790.

Business complex being constructed

By MITRA LOTFI
Staff Writer

Construction will begin in mid-October on The Chapel Hill Center, a 6.5-acre complex at the intersection of East Franklin Street and Estes Drive behind the Gulf service station.

The complex, including 72,000 square feet of office space, two restaurants and 2,500 square feet of retail space, is located at the geographical center of Chapel Hill, which accounts for its name, according to M. J. Hakan, a partner in The Center Partnership, which designed the building.

"The planning board granted site plan approval on Jan. 28 and they (The Center Partnership) also have a zoning compliance permit to begin grading the site," said J. B. Culpepper, a planner with the town planning board.

However, until an inspection permit is issued, the site can be cleared, but no construction can begin, according to Louise Pettis, a member of the building inspection board.

"We have to review the plans to make sure they're up to codes," she said.

There will be three office buildings, each three stories high, and two one-story restaurants, Hakan said.

The retail shops will be tied into one of the restaurant buildings, Hakan said.

"We have a walk-in-type plan with a plaza between the buildings, and we've tried to save as many trees as possible," he said.

The Siena Hotel, an 80-room facility on the opposite side of East Franklin Street, will also be started in mid-October and should be ready by mid-summer 1987.

The Center and the hotel have both been designed in classical European style by Hakan/Corley and Associates of Chapel Hill.

Among the buildings being razed to make room for the complexes are Snoopy's Restaurant and Fisher-Fisher Realty. Fisher-Fisher moved to Cough Road earlier this summer.

Cabaret to replace old Union gameroom

By JEAN LUTES
Assistant University Editor

Interested in experiencing a different kind of night life? Soon you won't need to dream about Paris or New York — you'll be able to enjoy

evenings of dance, drama and other entertainment by just sauntering over to the Student Union.

UNC's Physical Plant is working on plans for a Cabaret room in the Union where the gameroom used to

be, Herbert Paul, the physical plant director, said Wednesday. "We do have a preliminary sketch, and we are working up a detailed estimate," Paul said. He estimated the cost of the Cabaret room at \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Howard Henry, director of the Carolina Union, said the room will be designed for maximum flexibility, to be used for such events as plays, meetings and musical combos.

"We certainly have a very definite idea of what it will be like," he said. "We're just waiting to hear from the physical plant."

Archie Copeland, associate direc-

tor of Carolina Union, said the Cabaret room could serve many functions. "We can do anything from cabarets to dances, to small musical revues and drama productions, he said.

"There will be three levels of seatings and a good sound and lighting system to accommodate different groups," Henry said.

Copeland said when students walk into the room, they'll be on a level with the stage, and seating will rise above them. The room will accommodate about 200 people, he said.

"It's a prime space for students to do programs," he said.

Conference

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But buying drugs to build cases against drug dealers will not solve the problem, Morgan said. "We have concluded that we can't buy our way out of the drug problem by buying illegal drugs." Sometimes as much as \$50,000 must be spent to make a case against one dealer, he added.

The cocaine problem will get worse because of the increasing popularity of "crack," an inexpensive and very potent form of cocaine, he said.

"It's cheap, it's quick, it's easy to produce and distribute," Dunn said. Crack will bring the cocaine problem down from the middle- and upper-class to the lower-class, he said.

Morgan said crack is now available in almost every area of North Carolina.

College campuses offer a good market for crack, Dunn said.

He said law enforcement officials are coping, but not keeping up with the cocaine problem. "There's no easy answer," he said. "In our days of instant marketing we're looking for quick fixes."

By 1990, the United States could be a "total drug culture" where everybody tries drugs, Dunn said. Drug testing will not necessarily stop with athletes, he said, and the military could begin to play a bigger role in the fight against drugs.

The alternative to drug testing is warring against drugs, he said. "People are not just shaking their heads in frustration but are beginning to shake their fists."

Prevention is the most important factor in reducing drug use, Dunn said. "We've got to put more emphasis on prevention, on keeping people out of drugs," he said.

Young people need to be encour-

aged to turn to athletics, exercise, music, art and academics instead of cocaine, he said.

"A few years ago we had a young man walking around the state with a sign, 'I am somebody.' Some people in North Carolina need to do drugs to be somebody," he said.



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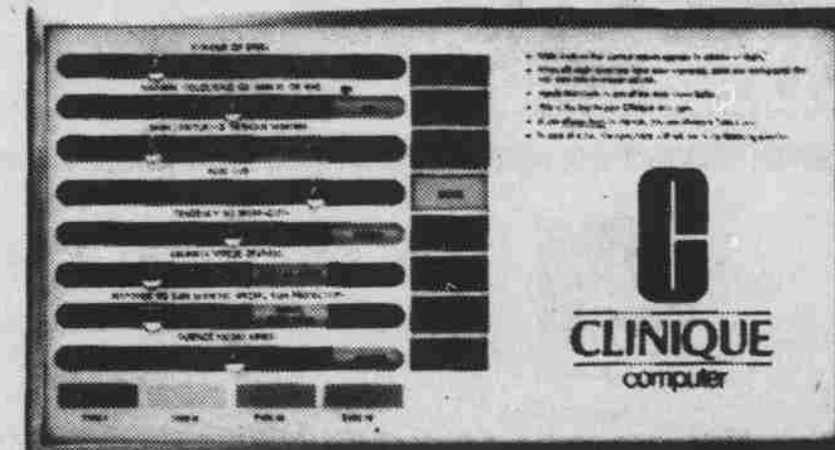
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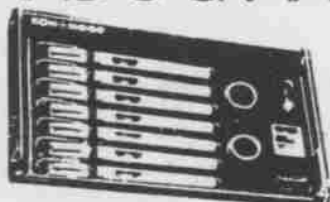
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