

Bug to study computer science goes down, but not terminally

By LEE ANN NECESSARY
Staff Writer

College students in undergraduate studies across the nation are not enrolling in computer science programs as eagerly as they did five years ago, a national survey at the University of California at Los Angeles has found.

But at UNC, graduate enrollment has increased, said Dr. Jay Nievergelt, chairman of the department of computer science, although undergraduate enrollment of computer science programs is down.

On the national level, UCLA found that about 1.6 percent of all freshmen who entered college last fall wanted to major in computer science, compared with 2.1 percent in 1985 and 4 percent in 1982.

Although enrollment at UNC has declined from 160 students to 100 in the past two years, Nievergelt said the number of doctorates conferred per year nationwide increased to 300-400, compared with 200 a few years ago.

Nievergelt said the decline in undergraduate enrollment is a good sign, because enrollment in computer programs was unreasonably high due to a computer trend in the early 1980s.

"Up to about five years ago, the typical computer science department had less than half the enrollments it has now; then it got flooded with enrollment by people who thought it was a trendy thing to do," Nievergelt said.

Nievergelt said emphasis should be placed on the long-term aspect

of enrollment in these programs. "If you look at this long-term trend, the program is still growing," he said.

At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Paul Duvall, head of the mathematics department, said their programs' enrollment had basically remained the same compared to last spring's figures, with only a slight decline of three or four students.

Nievergelt said students enrolling in the computer science program were not aware that computer science is a technical study.

"Now the students are more aware and more serious," he said.

Because UNC does not offer a bachelor's degree in computer science, students wanting a background in the computer field receive a mathematical science degree with an option in computer science.



DTH/Larry Childress

Window workers

These workmen were busy 'way past dark Thursday night in Phillips Hall. The entire building has been undergoing a complete renovation over the past few months. New windows and doors are on the agenda for improvement.

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Residents request downtown library

By MICHELLE EFIRD
Staff Writer

Several Chapel Hill residents urged the Town Council Wednesday night to place the soon-to-be-constructed town library downtown rather than in a suburban area of Chapel Hill.

In the Nov. 4 elections, voters approved \$4 million in bonds to build a new library. Bonds will also be issued to provide improvements for streets, parks and open space, meeting rooms and offices, and fire protection.

Chapel Hill resident Edwin Jackson, a former librarian in Hartford, Conn., was one of the citizens who asked the council to build the library in a central location.

"I don't understand why the present library is where it is," Jackson said. "The new central library should be put as near to the center of town as it can be put."

"The parking lot on West Franklin Street (across from University Square) would be a very good location for the library," he said.

Jackson also said downtown merchants should get behind the project because Chapel Hill residents could combine trips to the library with shopping and having lunch downtown.

The design of the library should be more conservative and not a "monument to the architect" like the Walter Royal Davis Library on the University campus, he said.

Chapel Hill resident Lightning Brown agreed that council members should look for a new downtown location for the library.

"Uptown is the right place. . . . The business district needs to be the vitality and life of Chapel Hill," he said.

"If we try to choose a suburban location we will find that what we thought was a good location will not be," he said.

Brown also said the library should

contain space for local citizens to meet with their elected representatives.

Resident DeWitt Brown agreed with the central location idea and said the location should be within walking distance of campus and Columbia and Franklin streets.

Board of Adjustment member Robert Joesting said the library should be the second-most culturally oriented place in town, next only to the University.

If the library is not centrally located, it could prove detrimental for low-income families, he said.

However, Councilman David Godschalk said he did not think both sides of the library-location issue were represented at the meeting. He said he had received calls and letters from residents who did not think the library should be located downtown.

The council agreed to form a committee, and member Julie Andresen said she thought the library heads and community leaders should work with the town staff in selecting a location.

The council has tentative plans to select the site by 1987, have the design completed by 1988, and complete construction in 1990.

In other business, Eckland-Kamens Enterprises of Chapel Hill petitioned the council to purchase the old police department building at 100 W. Rosemary St.

A spokesman for the group said it wants to convert the building, which is presently being used as a shelter for the homeless, into a bed and breakfast inn.

Bobette Eckland charged that the building was presently an "eyesore" and a "disgrace to the homeless."

But Andresen said the council needs to "consider all the municipal needs for this building" before making a decision.

Town Manager David Taylor will issue a report on alternative uses for the building in about a month.

Warden's band to 'bare' fruit

By KRISTEN GARDNER
Staff Writer

Billy Warden and his band the Floating Children will appear on WRAL's "Live at Noon" news show today.

The band will perform the song "She's a Pineapple" live, and talk about the video it plans to produce with Student Television.

Warden described the song "She's a Pineapple" as a sort of rap song. He said it was co-written by Sammy Doddy and based on a real life experience.

"Sammy really loved this girl," Warden explained, "and I found him in tears, sitting in the gutter. Through his tears, he said to me, 'My girl is a pineapple.'" Warden said the song is about what this phrase means to him.

Warden and the band also plan to play at the Capitol Towers retirement apartments in Raleigh at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Warden said Wednesday it would be a set of acoustic music.

The Floating Children will make a second appearance at Cat's Cradle on Thursday, Feb. 5 with Matt "Guitar" Murphy.

"It'll be a huge show," Warden said. "It'll probably have to spill over into the SAC."

The band features Warden, a self-described "harmonica whiz," on vocals, his brother Ramone Warden

on lead guitar, Richie Giersch on acoustic guitar, Chip Cheek on bass, Sammy Doddy on rhythm guitar and Alan Heller on drums.

Warden and the band plan to make a video with STV for the song "Sprinkler," which Warden describes as "funk played by monster thorn-bushes — a funky vegetarian kind of song." The song is about Warden's favorite front-yard item. "I think it's great when inanimate objects bring so much joy to human beings," he said.

The video will feature local celebrities such as news anchor Charlie Gaddy. Warden has approached Dean Smith, but so far has no commitment. "I've offered Dean Smith everything short of my body and he's still holding out," Warden said.

Warden said of his "Live at Noon" appearance, "It's a live program. Anything can happen. I hope my pants stay on, and my wig doesn't fall off."

The Floating Children has been together since September, when the band Snatches of Pink invited them to perform with them at Cat's Cradle.

Warden and the band have released an album called "Wizzy Wazbone" that was produced by Mike Kurtz, guitarist for the band Three Hits. The song "Sprinkler" will be released as a single in late March.

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