

News

Secretaries march for raises the University did not give

By **RON CRAWFORD**
University Editor

As UNC employees rallied last Thursday for the second time in less than a month, campus officials appealed to the state legislature for money to fund raises for UNC's secretaries and clerks.

The North Carolina Office of State Personnel authorized raises in November that would affect 1,800 UNC employees and cost about \$2 million to implement.

However, UNC officials said the University did not have the salary reserves to grant the raises and the legislature did not allocate any funds to help.

On May 20, about 500 UNC secretaries and clerks gathered around the South Building to ask

why the raises were not granted and why University employees were not informed of the legislation that authorized the raises.

On June 11, an even larger group of secretaries and clerks were joined by faculty members and University administrators as they rallied around the Old Well to ask why their raises had still not been granted.

Many in the crowd wore green arm bands representing the money they felt was missing from their paychecks.

"We wanted to continue to let our administration as well as the legislature in Raleigh know that we still feel that this is a vital issue," said Cay Talbert, a hospital administrative assistant who participated in the rally.

"We really don't care whether

the money comes from the University or from the legislature," she said.

Talbert said that without competitive pay, the University will have trouble recruiting new employees and retaining its current employees.

"Since 1974, the inflation rate has outstripped the legislature-approved raises by 25 percent," Talbert said. "Your long-term dedicated employees who have been faithful to the University and the state are being punished by the loss in purchasing power."

UNC officials agree that raises are needed, but say the funds are still not available.

"We are continuing to (explore) every avenue available

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Amnesty International works for human rights

By **ALECIA HOLLAND**
Staff Writer

Amnesty International, a worldwide movement that calls for an end to abuses of human rights, has its own branch in Chapel Hill.

Amnesty International Group No. 84, the local arm of the international organization, is working for the releases of all prisoners of conscience and for an end to torture and executions. Group No. 84 is also participating in an international campaign on human rights violations in Iran, according to Tom Rudin, the local publicity coordinator.

"Our group writes letters and organizes programs because we believe that individuals can make the difference in the human rights situation worldwide," Rudin said.

"We have several things underway — the campaign focusing attention on human rights abuses in Iran, another campaign on torture

and executions in Cambodia, and one concerning the death penalty in the United States."

Rudin said that Amnesty International in general, and the local group in particular, focuses on trying to stop human rights abuses against people who are imprisoned and threatened with torture and execution because of their religious beliefs, political beliefs, race or sex. The purpose of the international group is to exert pressure on the governments which are inflicting such abuses, he said.

The campaign on human rights abuses in the Islamic Republic of Iran concerns the lack of universally acknowledged standards of justice, such as the right to a fair and prompt trial before imprisonment and the right to a defense attorney, according to a recently published report by Amnesty International.

"We want public officials to know that we know what is going on in their country — and no government wants to be exposed worldwide and embarrassed. That is why we do research very meticulously and then publish the results," said Rudin. The Chapel Hill group writes letters to governments, government officials and newspapers worldwide.

Amnesty International Group No. 84 has been in existence since 1979, and is one of the largest of the 320 Amnesty International groups in the United States, Rudin said. The group works to raise the local social consciousness, as well as working for human rights observance and for defending particular persons, through petitions and public meetings.

The local group meets the first Monday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Newman Center, 218 Pittsboro Street, Chapel Hill. For more information, contact Group Coordinator Kelly Rudin, or write Box 104, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27514.

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