

Flu epidemics on the way, according to health experts

By STACI COX
Staff Writer

With October comes more than mere midterms. It also signals the start of flu season, and health officials expect three strains of flu to plague the population this year.

The World Health Organization in Geneva and the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta have monitored the spread of influenza in the Southern Hemisphere since March, said Tom O'Toole, N.C. immunization program coordinator. Their observations indicate that of the over 100 strains of flu, the A-Leningrad, B-Aun Arbor and A-Taiwan strains will be active this year, he said.

The health organizations use 11 major universities in North Carolina, including UNC, to gauge the infection rate in this state, O'Toole said. The most flu cases occur from December until the end of January, he said.

To prevent concentration of the virus, anyone, especially people at high risk, can get flu shots, O'Toole said.

High risk groups include the elderly, anyone hospitalized within the last year, anyone with chronic heart, liver or lung problems, anemics, diabetics, severe asthmatics, children and teens under aspirin therapy, and doctors and nurses, he said.

Flu shots pose no risk except possible discomfort in the injection area, O'Toole said. Pregnant women and people with severe allergies to eggs should never receive the flu vaccine, he said.

About 40,000 people die of flu in the United States each year, and most of the deaths are high risk people who have not been inoculated, he said.

Students, especially those whose roommates fall into a high risk group,

should get flu shots, he said.

While the shots do not provide 100 percent protection, flu shots decrease the risk by 80 percent to 95 percent. Those who do get the flu after having shots usually have a milder case.

Symptoms of the flu include a fever greater than 101, chills and muscle pain, O'Toole said. Flu sufferers should drink liquids and rest, but should avoid aspirin, which may lead to Reye's Syndrome, he said.

"Most healthy people can ride out the flu with a few days' rest, but severe cases should be taken to a doctor to prevent secondary infections, such as pneumonia," O'Toole said.

Student Health Services will inoculate students without an appointment, unless they have a serious blood disorder or other infections. The inoculation costs \$5.40 and is available between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Student leader salaries examined

By MANDY SPENCE
Staff Writer

A new Student Congress committee created to set standards for paying the leaders of student groups met Thursday for the first time.

The Stipend Committee was founded by Rob Friedman, speaker of the congress, to determine how much money the heads of student groups should be paid.

"Throughout the years there has been no set reason to get stipends," Friedman said. "There is no criteria — the amount of work a person does is not considered. It's arbitrary."

Friedman appointed Neil Riemann, chairman of the congress's Finance Committee, as chairman of the new group. "I told Neil to set up some criteria to judge how people

should get paid: to decide who gets paid, why they get paid and how much they get paid," he said.

The five-member committee will determine the criteria by contacting other universities and examining how the congress has allotted stipends in the past.

Under the new standards, some student group leaders may be deprived of their stipends, while others who are now unpaid may be allotted stipends.

Riemann said the process of designating stipends needs to be reformed. "Our purpose is to take our stipend payments and establish a uniform policy," he said. "There have been disagreements on whether organization leaders are paid enough and on

whether the payments are equal to other schools' payments. We are not very consistent."

At the organizational meeting Thursday afternoon, Riemann polled the committee members to decide which universities to survey about methods of allotting stipends. Committee members were also given the opportunity to express concerns about the stipend allotment process.

The committee plans to have the new criteria established by March, in time for the spring budget process. During the process, the congress will allocate student fees to officially recognized student groups.

"All we are trying to do is establish a consistent policy on how organization leaders should be paid," Riemann said.

Campaigns benefit from endorsements

By LEE ANN NECESSARY
Staff Writer

Although the results may not appear until the primary, political endorsements often mean increased contributions and support for political candidates, campaign officials said.

Endorsements from community organizations usually help candidates in the long run, said John Bode, a volunteer for the Committee to Elect Tony Rand.

The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) recently endorsed Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, for lieutenant governor. The NCAE also recommended the endorsement of Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan for governor and Democratic Rep. Bobby Etheridge of Lillington for secretary of state.

Bode said that while the endorsement was an important one, its effect would not be felt until nearer the primaries.

"It certainly helps," Bode said. "In a race like this the support of the education community is very important because of all the problems facing our state, (education) is the first and most important problem."

Margaret Lawton, press secretary for the N.C. Democratic Party, said although it may be difficult to analyze endorsements' effects, they contribute to these candidates' campaigns in coming months.

"Early endorsements will affect candidates in primaries," she said. Candidates can gain name recognition and financial support from endorsements, she said.

Bode said early endorsements would prove important because they show who is organized and which campaigns are shaping up.

But most people do not pay much attention to endorsements, said Merle Black, a UNC professor of political science.

"Perhaps for people who belong to the associations making the endorsements, it would make more of a difference," Black said.

Although the governor would have welcomed the NCAE endorsement, there should be little, if any, effect on Martin's campaign contributions, said Kevin Brown, campaign manager for the Jim Martin Committee.

Brown said Martin did not expect the NCAE's endorsement because the group is opposed to Martin's Career Ladder Plan, which would propose a merit pay system for teachers.

"In fact, by not getting the endorsement, this may highlight the fact that the governor is supportive of better pay for better teachers, which may appeal to certain teachers and parents," Brown said.

Brown said endorsements have more of an effect on public perception than financial contributions.

Pumpkin carving contest today in Pit

From staff reports

Today at noon, the Student Stores and the Senior Class will sponsor a pumpkin carving contest in the Pit.

Prizes include a \$20 gift certificate from the Student Stores for the scariest pumpkin, and a \$20 meal card bonus from Carolina Dining Services for the funniest pumpkin.

Other prizes will go to the pumpkins that are most original, most artistic and most bizarre.

The contest is free and open to all students. Two-member teams may sign up, and each will have 45 minutes to work. Judges appointed by the Senior Class officers will start making their decisions at 12:45 p.m.

John Gorsuch, Student Stores administrative assistant, said 100 pumpkins have been ordered for the event.

All carving utensils and markers will be provided. After the judging is over, contestants can keep their creations.

Glenn Gillen, a member of the Special Projects Committee for the

Senior Class, said the contest is the Students Stores' way of showing its appreciation of the students.

Gorsuch, who thought of the idea, said, "It just seems like a fun way to kick off Halloween."

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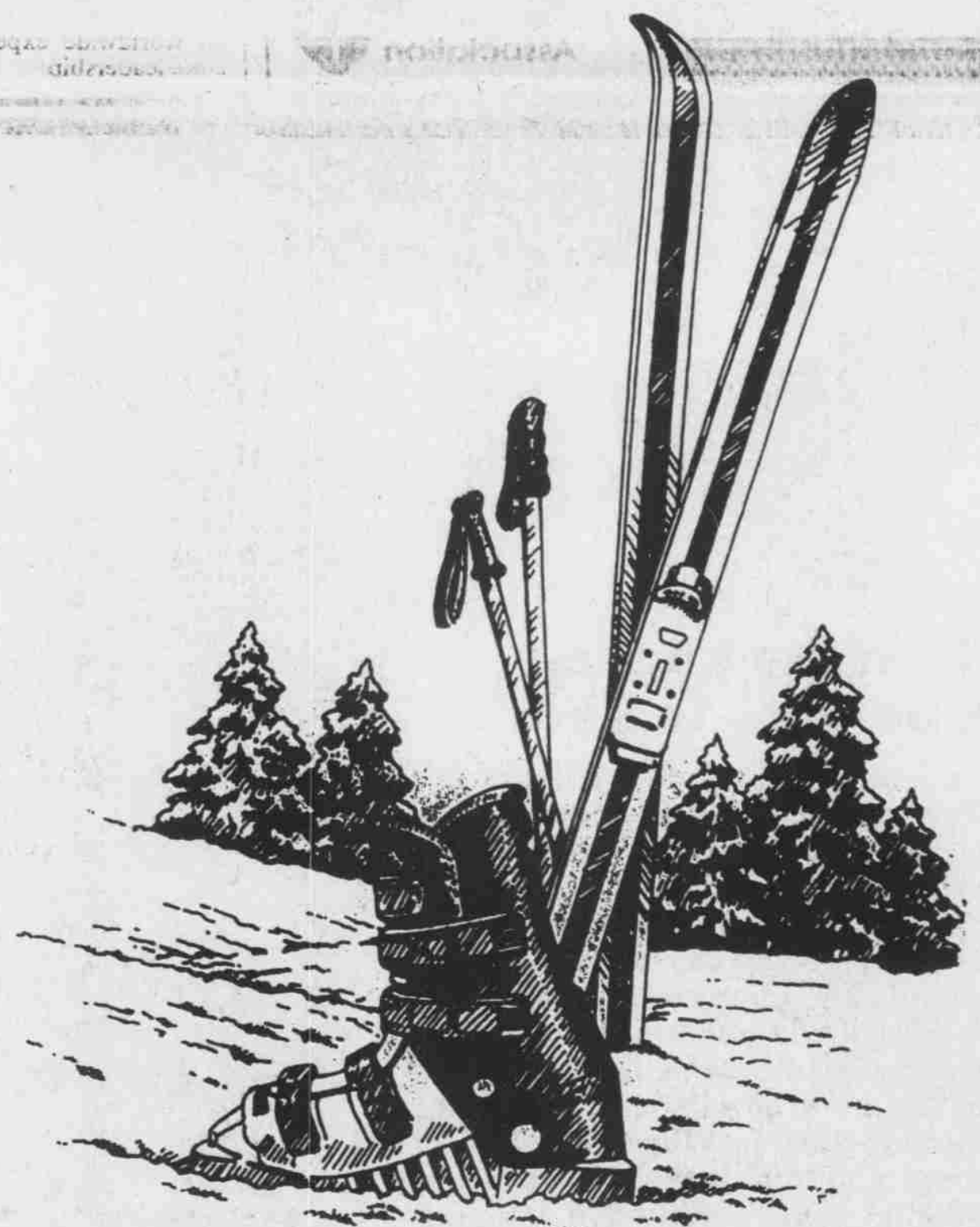
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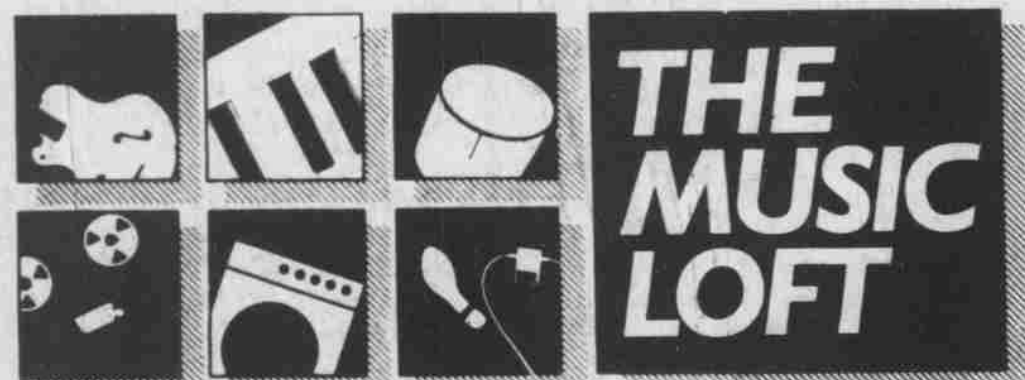
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