

LSU's Elliott appointed to Smith Center spot

By **CHRIS SONTCHI**
Staff Writer

Jeff Elliott, director of the Assembly Center at Louisiana State University, has been named the new director of the Dean E. Smith Center.

Elliott will begin his position as the Smith Center's director July 1, a post which has been vacant since April 1 when former director Steve Camp

resigned to become director of the new Charlotte Coliseum.

Elliott has a great deal of experience in stadium management. The LSU alumnus joined the Assembly Center staff in 1973. He rose through the ranks, becoming assistant director in 1976 and director in 1981.

"We are very pleased that Jeff has accepted our invitation to join the

University," said UNC athletic director John Swofford in a press release announcing Elliott's appointment.

"The fact that he has had a number of years of experience in directing an on-campus facility was very appealing to us. We think this experience will be beneficial to him and our University," Swofford said. "He was certainly highly recommended."

Heading the 21,444-seat Smith Center, which is the second largest indoor arena on the East Coast, will be a step up from Elliott's management of the 15,236-seat Assembly Center.

"As Smith Center director, I'll be taking on a new challenge," Elliott said in a press release. "I've done almost everything I can do at the

Assembly Center.

"Now I've got the opportunity to accomplish more things and meet new people. Also, I'm going to a facility that's 7,000 seats larger. Smith Center is the top university facility in the country."

Elliott could not be reached for comment.

Students launch plan for public preschool in lobbying campaign

By **KARI BARLOW**
Staff Writer

The N.C. Child Care Neglect Project, established five months ago by UNC law student Joel Segal, has begun lobbying the N.C. General Assembly for a statewide public preschool program to target 3- and 4-year-olds from lower income families.

"Our representatives in our area must hear from students from now on," Segal said. The project is focusing on the pre-kindergarten pilot program which would allow for the establishment of 32 additional preschool programs throughout the state if the legislature approves it.

"The importance of the pre-kindergarten pilot program is that it will pave the way for a statewide preschool program," Segal said.

"We have typed out letters to every senator and every representative in the legislature," he said. "We need students to go and talk to their respective representatives. This is a student issue, because many of the women who are undergrads will have children one day."

"That is why awareness is so important," said rising junior Steffon Sharpless, a member of the project. "You cannot really lobby something that you're not aware of. I've been trying to get people to realize that these are social problems closer to them than they realize. They aren't aware of how unequal the educational

system is.

"We need to show the legislature that we aren't just coming out of school interested in getting jobs and dollars and cents. There are a lot of low-income families who can't afford to send their kids to preschool," he said.

"I know that to take this on in public school there would be a lot of associated concerns," said Rep. Anne Barnes, D-Orange. "One of the impacts would be facilities. Another thing is which is the best environment: a public setting or a private setting? If the public school gets into the 4-year-old area, what impact does that have on the private sector? And, so, how would the state be impacting the child care industry by removing the 4-year-olds from it?"

Barnes added, since public school kindergarten is not mandatory in the state, the legislature should be certain that it is reaching 5-year-olds as well as preschoolers.

"I am delighted that the group has become a group and that they are focusing their effort on such a crucial issue," she said.

"The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill can establish a precedent. All a student has to do is spend an hour or two out of his week talking to a representative," Segal said.

Students interested in lobbying will be trained by the members of the project through the Campus Y, he said.



Tar Heel/Nancy Fister

Sneaker attack

Kevin Zarzecki inspects the damage done to his toe by a kamikaze bee. He and rising junior

Pablo Bandera were playing Frisbee when Zarzecki got stung.

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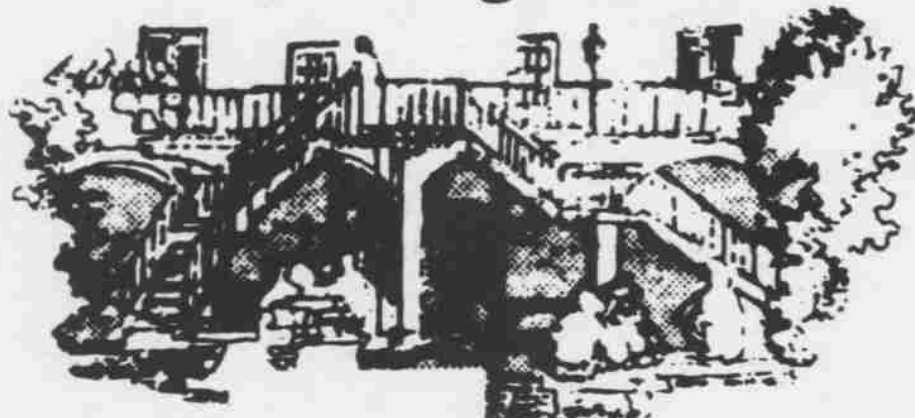


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