

Seniors: It's almost time to apply for your degree

By **BILL YARDLEY**
Staff Writer

Seniors planning to walk across the Kenan Stadium field in cap and gown this May for graduation ceremonies should apply for their degrees by Feb. 8.

Seniors can pick up degree applications in each of the five undergraduate school offices. Students should go to their respective schools to fill out the brief forms.

Students who are uncertain about their graduation status or who have questions concerning whether they have fulfilled all perspective requirements should see their advisers immediately, said Richard Cramer, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students who apply for a degree but have not fulfilled all the University requirements will receive a notice in early March stating the number of hours or courses they must complete to graduate.

Common problems seniors face include a shortage of hours, not enough hours with a grade of C or above in courses required for the major, and confusion about which courses count toward certain perspective requirements.

"There have been horror stories about students who thought they were going to graduate but found out too late in the semester they had taken the wrong historical perspective and still needed three hours to graduate," Cramer said.

Students who plan to substitute one course for another or have a requirement waived should have written permission from their schools, he said. "We are not receptive to the argument, 'I talked to someone who said it was OK.'"

To clear up any vague areas and avoid a midsemester shock, students should see their advisers this week, Cramer said. "We will try to work in students without appointments,

but they should make an appointment if possible."

With special permission of the instructor, seniors may still be able to pick up courses to fulfill perspectives so they can graduate in May.

He said students who find they are missing perspectives required for graduation have three options: appeal to their school deans to substitute an elective taken for a necessary requirement, enroll in a session of summer school or take a correspondence course by mail.

"Students can appeal (to substitute an elective for a perspective) if they were misadvised or if there was some ambiguity concerning what a course will fulfill," Cramer said. "But the appeals committee is not very receptive to students who have no record of seeing their advisers."

Students may still march in the May graduation ceremonies if they graduate through summer school or correspondence.

Combined UNC food service feasible, may not be profitable

By **AMY WAJDA**
Staff Writer

Combining the food service contracts of Marriott Corp. and Ogden Food Services is feasible but might not produce enough profits to make up the difference if the \$100 mandatory meal plan is eliminated, Tom Higley, Ogden general manager for UNC, said Sunday.

A student government ad hoc committee submitted a proposal Wednesday to Chancellor Paul Hardin suggesting that one company handle on-campus dining services and concessions sales as a way to eliminate the \$100 mandatory meal plan for on-campus residents.

Now, Marriott handles dining services for UNC, while Ogden operates University concession stands.

Higley said he was not sure if the combination would be profitable for Ogden. "I don't think you could combine the contracts to generate enough revenue to offset (the loss of) the meal plan," he said. "I really don't think it would be more profitable," he said.

According to the proposal, Marriott receives about \$700,000 in yearly revenue by requiring a \$100 minimum meal plan from about 7,000 on-campus residents.

Ogden's concession stand revenues last year were about \$1 million, the proposal said.

According to the student government proposal, the food service company would still be guaranteed \$300,000 in revenue if the contracts were combined and the meal plan eliminated.

The goal of the combination would be to "provide a food service company holding the contract with a larger revenue base on which to operate," according

to the proposal.

Higley confirmed the figures for Ogden's concession income. He said the company aims for a 10 percent profit each year.

This figure means that after paying a percentage of its revenue to UNC, salaries, depreciation, equipment rental and other expenses, Ogden has a profit of about \$100,000.

Ogden is a national company that operates cafeterias in other places in the country, Higley said. Ogden would be able to take over the whole food service, he said.

But he was not sure if Ogden would want to. "I don't know if it would be worth our time to run both," he said.

"Combining both contracts could be done, but it would take a lot more thought," Higley said. "We would be willing to work with them."

Insurance costs hinder plans for Chapel Hill skateboard ramp

By **TOM PARKS**
Staff Writer

The Town of Chapel Hill cannot build and operate a skateboard ramp unless it can find affordable liability insurance, according to a parks and

recreation staff report released last week.

The Chapel Hill Town Council passed an amendment to the town's development ordinance last week that limits the size of outdoor skateboard

ramps to between 4 and 10 feet high and 12 and 30 feet long.

Ramps larger than 10 by 30 feet are now banned in Chapel Hill, while ramps smaller than 4 by 12 feet are not regulated.

But the parks and recreation staff report said a town-operated skateboard ramp facility should be included in the master planning process for the town's new southern community park if the town can find affordable liability insurance in the future.

"Because the insurance market changes frequently, we believe we should continue to investigate options for liability insurance," according to a memo from town manager David Taylor.

But affordable liability coverage is not available now. Only one source of liability insurance was found that would insure the town for up to \$1

million, the report said.

"With only one company willing to take the risk, that leaves us with a cornered market," town risk manager Jim Connolly said Friday.

Demand now exists for a town-operated ramp, according to a survey of seventh- through 12th-grade students in Chapel Hill and Carrboro schools conducted by the parks and recreation staff.

Scott McLean, of 45 Rogerson Drive, said: "There would be a huge turnout (if a town-operated ramp were built). Kids love it." McLean owns the ramp that triggered the controversy about skate ramps.

The ramp was larger than 10 by 30 feet, but it has not been used since August and is now being dismantled, McLean said.

Some area skateboarders said they were worried about where they are

going to skate now.

"There is nowhere you can just skate and not get kicked out," said 15-year-old Wells Tower, a student at Chapel Hill Senior High School. "Even on campus we get kicked out."

Tower and Harrison Haynes, also 15 and a high school student, were skating behind the Union Sunday. Haynes said he doubted the town would build a skateboard ramp.

Herman Lloyd, who lives at 68 Oakwood Drive and is a neighbor of McLean's, said the town could spend its money in better ways than building a skateboard ramp.

But, Lloyd said, "If an individual has five acres and wants to put it in the middle, that is fine with me."

The amendment passed by the council permits the construction of ramps in residential zoning districts if the ramps are on lots of at least

five acres and are set back at least 100 feet from all residential property boundaries.

Ramps must be set back 30 feet from all non-residential property boundaries.

Council member Nancy Preston said the noise made by skaters on ramps was a major reason for the council's actions. Preston said she hopes the town can build and operate a ramp if it can find affordable insurance.

The parks and recreation staff report said the town should build two skateboard ramps of different sizes if the town decides to build the facility. Two half-pipes approximately 10 and 5 feet high would accommodate skaters of different skill levels, the report said.

Building such a facility would cost about \$30,000, and yearly maintenance costs would be about \$10,000, the report said. The town could collect user fees to offset maintenance costs.

The new southern community park, located near the Dogwood acres subdivision south of Chapel Hill along U.S. 15-501, was chosen because no other existing town-owned property met the space requirements for a ramp facility, the report said.



DTH/David Minton

Blast from the past

Tie-dyes, miniskirts and love beads abound in the Union's Great Hall Saturday night at the eighth annual WXYC '60s Dance.

Planners to discuss newspaper racks

By **BLAKE DICKINSON**
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill town planners and newspaper representatives will meet Thursday to consider guidelines for the placement, number and appearance of newspaper vending racks in downtown Chapel Hill.

"We're trying to get some coordination and guidelines for the newspaper vending machines, which are primarily on Franklin Street," said Cassandra Sloop, chairman of the Chapel Hill Appearance Commission. "The point of the meeting is to get the groups together and consider our options."

Downtown merchants are concerned with the litter around newspaper vending racks and pedestrian traffic problems caused by the vending racks, she said.

The appearance commission met with newspaper representatives Oct. 22 and formed a committee to address the issue.

"We've heard from several of the newspaper vending companies, and they are eager to meet with us and cooperate," Sloop said.

But Pat Walston, director of circulation for Spectator magazine, is not so sure.

"In a nutshell, it seems like they just want us to get off the street," Walston said. "I'm almost to the point that I don't want to get involved at all because I'm so damn mad."

Danny Fox, a member of the Downtown Association, said the committee is not trying to eliminate vending racks on Franklin Street. "We are not trying to say who can put machines where or how many, but to regulate the appearance."

Fox said he did not understand why four Charlotte Observer, four News and Observer and four Daily Tar Heel vending racks had to occupy the same street.

Kevin Schwartz, general manager of The Daily Tar Heel, said he understands the town's concerns.

"What it comes down to is the town leaders of Chapel Hill are very image-conscious," Schwartz said. "Certainly newspaper vending areas could look better. I don't like to look at them either."

Schwartz said he hopes to see a

written agreement produced at the committee's meeting, but he said at least one of the town's concerns, litter, cannot be blamed on newspaper vending racks.

"People litter, newspaper boxes don't," Schwartz said.

Town officials may also run into legal problems if they try to regulate newspaper vending machines.

The U.S. Supreme Court addressed the First Amendment issues involved in news rack regulations for the first time last year. In a 4-3 vote, the court ruled a Lakewood, Ohio, ordinance violated First Amendment rights by giving the mayor "unfettered discretion" in issuing permits to allow newspapers to place vending racks on the street.

Housing from page 1

general hall drawing on Feb. 22.

Students who live off campus can only apply for on-campus housing through the waiting list lottery, although they can be assured a room if they request a high-rise residence hall, Rustin said. The deadline for off-campus students is 5 p.m. on Feb. 23.

On Feb. 24, the submission cards of all students unsuccessful in the lottery and all off-campus students will be drawn to determine the placement of names on the central waiting list. The housing office will post the numbered lists on Feb. 27. As spaces become available before next semester, the housing department will take names from the top of the list and issue a room to those students, he said.

On March 9, area directors will submit hall rosters to the housing department and notify students of their room assignments for next semester, Rustin said.

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