

Nonimmunized students, faculty to be kept off campus

By JUSTIN MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

UNC is legally required to prevent students who have not been vaccinated for measles from attending classes, but professors and department chairmen said Wednesday that although they have no specific plans, they will try to accommodate students.

The Orange County Health Department officially released a quarantine order for the campus Wednesday, following N.C. quarantine law. Failure to comply with the quarantine is a criminal misdemeanor.

"University officials are under an edict," said Dr. Judith Cowan, director of Student Health Service. "They are taking it very seriously because they have no alternative."

Under the provisions of the quarantine, faculty, staff and students who

did not present proof of measles immunization by 9 p.m. Wednesday must comply with the following:

■ Faculty and staff are to be excluded from class and campus until proof of immunization is provided or until Feb. 17.

■ Students are to be excluded from class effective today and excluded from campus, including residence halls, by Friday, until proof of immunization is presented or until Feb. 17.

■ Faculty, students and staff with exemptions for medical or religious reason are to be excluded from class and campus effective today until Feb. 17 or until proof of immunity is presented.

University police are responsible for enforcing the public health order and will remove students from class if necessary, Cowan said. Students will be taken to their local residence

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if they are removed from class.

Wayne Kuncel, director of University Housing, said Wednesday that he had not been told how the housing

department was supposed to deal with removing students from residence halls.

Cowan said she was not sure how

visitors would be kept from residence halls, but said she thought proof of immunization might be necessary to enter the halls.

Students who have not had a shot yet still have a chance to get one today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Woollen Gym.

Department chairmen and professors said Wednesday that they would probably make provisions to accommodate students who cannot be vaccinated.

Students who have an illness worse than a cold, who are allergic to eggs or who are pregnant cannot be vaccinated.

Richard Cole, dean of the School of Journalism, said the school would wait to see how many students will miss classes before making a decision.

"We'll do whatever is necessary," Cole said. "We'll have to see how many students miss and do whatever

is appropriate."

Lawrence Gilbert, chairman of the biology department, said students who have a valid excuse from a doctor for not getting a shot would be accommodated.

"We'll take care of them," he said. "It will be treated like any other disease."

Some departments have not yet determined a policy.

Jane Lindley, administrative manager of the history department, said the department's chairman, Colin Palmer, has been out of town and they have not discussed the issue.

Peter Kaufman, associate professor of religion, said he had not really considered how to deal with students who miss classes, but he said he didn't anticipate it being a major problem.

"I have a feeling a lot of people like me haven't really thought about it," he said.



DTH/Steven Exum

UNC student Setsuko Edayoshi works with an autistic child at the Biological Sciences Research Center

Organization offers services to autistics and their families

By ELLEN THORNTON
Staff Writer

Deborah Kramer's 5-year-old son is obsessed with parking meters.

Once, he ran across a four-lane highway to get to a meter. "He has no sense of danger," Kramer said. "He is drawn to parking meters because he likes to put quarters in and see them work."

But this is no ordinary childhood fascination — Kramer's son is autistic. Although this Chapel Hill resident talks freely about her son, she rarely tells people about his disorder. Only a few people know enough about autism to feel comfortable around an autistic person, she said.

However, the misconceptions about autism may be changing due to the popularity of the recent movie "Rain Man." In the film, Dustin Hoffman portrays an autistic savant named Raymond Babbitt.

"The movie is good for educating people," said Dr. Mary Beth Van Bourgondien, an associate professor and administrator at Division TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication Handicapped Children).

"Hoffman did a great job," she said. "It is a good representation of one autistic person."

Hoffman's character displays characteristics present in many autistic people, Van Bourgondien said. He is rigidly set in his routines, becoming upset if he misses "The People's Court" or has to wear underwear that isn't bought at K-Mart. He is so literal that he stops in the middle of an intersection when the sign changes to "Don't Walk."

The character's special abilities set him apart from many autistic people. He can do complicated mathematical computations in his head, memorize entire pages of a phone book and instantly count 246 toothpicks as they fall from a box.

"I know of an autistic person who wrote concertos," Van Bourgondien

said. "One could play any music after hearing it only once, and another had memorized entire plane schedules."

But it is rare to find an autistic with many amazing abilities, Van Bourgondien said. More often, an autistic person will have a peak skill which is not necessarily more outstanding than that of a normal person.

Every autistic person is different, Van Bourgondien said, but each suffers from the same basic problems. All have severe deficits in social and communication skills, and 50 percent cannot talk at all. Those who do speak may never say anything meaningful. Many get stuck between choices, unable even to decide which candy bar they want.

Autistics also resist change and take life very literally. "It can be funny to see their literalness," Van Bourgondien said. "You appreciate their dilemma, but you laugh in a certain sort of way."

Most autistic people also have trouble forming relationships. "Many adults want interaction but don't know how to start it," she said. "They like people, and they do have friends, but they are not good at reciprocating."

About one in 1,000 people are autistic, and 70 percent of these are mentally retarded.

The cause of autism is unknown, Van Bourgondien said. But the disorder is definitely biological and not hereditary. There is no cure for autism, but autistic people can learn to live with — and possibly reduce — the behaviors.

TEACCH, a division of the School of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine, is a program that helps

autistic people deal with their disorder. As the only statewide autistic program in the country, TEACCH provides free services to North Carolina residents, including diagnostic evaluation, individualized treatment, parent and teacher training and consultation to organizations dealing with autism.

TEACCH also offers a preschool class for autistic children. The classroom, in the Biological Sciences Research Center, provides a structured environment for Kramer's son and the other five children that attend.

Each day the class does the same activities at the same time to make the children more comfortable, said Pam DiLavore, who teaches the class. The work and play areas are strictly defined.

"Regular people have strategies to figure out what's going to happen next," DiLavore said. "These kids don't."

Because the children have trouble communicating, DiLavore and her assistant use symbols to tell the children what to do next. When one boy is supposed to go to the bathroom, DiLavore hands him a diaper. When it is time for another boy to work, DiLavore gives him a colored circle, which he associates with his work area.

"There's something special about the intensity of my relationship with the kids," DiLavore said. "It's really exciting when you finally get them to do something they've been working on."

Students interested in doing volunteer work with autistic children can contact Pam DiLavore at 966-4851. For more information about working with autistic adults, contact Division TEACCH at 966-2173.

Officials say large pay raise unlikely for state legislators

By STEPHANIE VON ISENBURG
Staff Writer

A pay raise proposal similar to the one defeated Tuesday in Congress is unlikely in this session of the N.C. General Assembly, legislators said.

"If the General Assembly would be considering a pay raise, it would be in line with other state employees," said Rep. David Diamond, D-Surry, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The method of deciding on a pay raise for state legislators differs from that of Congress, he said. If a raise is approved, it takes place in the next session, preventing legislators from voting on their own raises.

The failure of the pay raise in Congress affects "the quality of people in other areas (of government). Congress is a part of a bigger package," he said.

Many government employees, such as judges, government scientists and other high-ranking officials, are not as wealthy as Congressmen and cannot afford a high cost of living, Diamond said.

"Maybe they should take Congress' salary out of the package," he said.

The defeat of the raise creates problems for the government in trying to recruit people with special skills.

"We can reclassify positions if the pay scale is out of line with private enterprise, but there are difficulties with engineers and professional (positions)," said Senate Minority Leader Larry Cobb, R-Mecklenburg.

The low salary also limits the groups from which the government can recruit legislators, he said.

Retired people and secondary wage earners are able to run for public office, but "the average 35 year old citizen who would like to participate in the government... couldn't afford it," he said.

"The state employee pay schedule, if we get merit pay reinstated, is pretty competitive with private enterprise," Cobb said.

Teacher pay has improved in North Carolina because of the surplus pay added to the teacher's salary by the county. "In Mecklenburg, teachers' pay is close to the national average when you add the surplus," he said.

"The public will never justify a salary increase for Senate or Congress," Diamond said. "It's not a popular issue."

Cobb disagrees. "The typical taxpayer feels that the average legislator is serving at a sacrifice and wouldn't object to an increase."

"This is not anywhere near Congress' situation where you're talking about going from \$89,000 to \$135,000," he said.

A pay raise proposed in the last session of the General Assembly was

voted down because "legislators didn't feel they could sell the idea back home," Diamond said.

"It would have caused some problems. It would have just about doubled the pay for everybody," Cobb said.

"There was a study commission that suggested it be raised to \$20,000 (from \$10,644), but (legislators) got the same increase all state employees got," he said.

"The original intent was to have the study and implement a change on the findings of the study," Cobb said. If legislators feel a pay raise is necessary, the Assembly should hire a neutral commission to study the issue. If there needs to be an adjustment, the next session of the General Assembly will vote on it, Diamond said.

The Appropriations Committee is not considering a pay raise of any sort in this session, he said.

"Realistically, there won't be any effort to have a substantial pay raise this time," Cobb said. "Until the time the revenue situation improves there will be no increase."

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