

Area rescue squad appeals to public for monetary help

By ELIZABETH SHERROD
Staff Writer

The South Orange Rescue Squad, a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers, needs public support to help meet the growing demands of the area.

The rescue squad provides free emergency medical care for residents of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, southern Orange County and northern Chatham County.

Jim Summers, a rescue squad volunteer, said assistance is available between 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday with 24-hour care on weekends. The squad also supplies coverage at local sporting events, concerts and festivals.

The squad building is used for public first aid and CPR training, Summers said.

Bobby Green, co-chairman of the fund-raising committee for South Orange Rescue Squad, said, "When people need an ambulance, they just expect it to be there. They think their tax money pays for it."

An operating budget of \$120,000 per year, not including the purchase of new vehicles and in-service training, is needed to supply these services, Green said.

Donations from Orange County, UNC and other municipalities comprise less than 25 percent of the total capital needed, he said, so the remaining 75 percent must be contributed by individuals and private corporations.

Green said the squad has annual fund-raising campaigns, usually in October, when letters are sent to community members explaining how the organization operates and asking for contributions.

Volunteers, ranging in profession from students to attorneys and businessmen, contribute their time and expertise to the squad every day.

The squad consists of 41 full-time members, 10 special fill-in members and 10 resource members, Green said. Each person is on duty once every 10 days. If the shift falls on a weekday, it is 12 hours, but if it falls on a weekend, it is 24 hours.

Ray DeFriess, chief of the rescue squad, said the Emergency Medical Service volunteers contribute more than 21,000 hours each year, saving the community more than \$200,000 in labor costs alone.

But Green said their call volume has increased 45 percent during the past five years. "Population in this area is not only getting larger, but it is also getting older," he said.

The squad must expand to meet the demands of a growing region, Green said. In addition to basic supplies such as splints and bandages, two new ambulances and a new communication system are needed.

Plans for a construction project that would double the size of existing facilities are also in the works, Green said.

Town sign ordinance scrutinized

By KATHRYNE TOVO
Staff Writer

The neon signs owned by several Chapel Hill businesses continue to glow illegally, but the Chapel Hill Appearance Commission is studying the town's sign ordinance and may ask the town council to amend it.

Several weeks ago, 16 downtown merchants submitted a letter to the town council requesting a change in the ordinance.

The letter said, "We feel that neon signs presented in a tasteful manner are vital to our businesses. The signs let our patrons and potential customers know where we are and that we are open for business."

In response to the letter, the town council referred the request to the appearance commission, which held a work session last week to address the issue.

Commission chairwoman Cassan-

dra Sloop said the group took two informal votes at this meeting. The first vote, to leave the ordinance unchanged, was defeated 5-3.

The commission then voted 8-0 in favor of an amended ordinance which recommends allowing neon signs to be placed in storefront windows if they conform to several restrictions.

Town planner Kendal Brown said under the new ordinance, neon signs would not be allowed to exceed 5 percent of a business' total window space and would be limited to a size of two square feet.

In addition, the sign could consist of only the name or logo of the business, she said.

Brown said she has met with several of the business owners who signed the petition to the town, and they had generally favorable reactions to the proposed amendments.

But some owners would like the

option of having neon signs that say "open" because they feel it is very important for their business.

Erwin Shatzen, co-owner of Pepper's Pizza, said he thinks the commission has come up with a proposal everyone can live with.

"We're going to have to do a little more to get it just right, but what they've done so far is great," he said.

The commission will have a formal vote on the amendment Wednesday and will make a recommendation to the town council based on the result.

Sloop said she approved of the present ordinance and would not mind if the council chose not to amend it. The only reason changes are being discussed now is because of the letter from the local businesses, she said.

Commission member David Swanson said he approves of well-done, tasteful neon signs because they can

add a lot to the appearance of the downtown area.

Many people are concerned that the signs could be overdone and create a tacky look, but business owners want their storefronts to be attractive and would probably prevent this from happening, Swanson said.

Commission member Roy Lindahl said one business in town was denied a permit for a neon sign and put it up anyway. The town inspector checks periodically and asks owners to remove their signs, he said.

"Although most businesses and citizens in town cooperate, some don't," he said.

"Many people think of neon as an acceptable art form," Lindahl said. "You can make attractive neon signs that wouldn't detract from the appearance of the community."

Rape crisis center in need of volunteers

By MARIA BATISTA
Staff Writer

The Orange County Rape Crisis Center is looking for volunteers to act as educators and companions, and one volunteer said her involvement at the center was a valuable experience.

Kim Kaufman, a junior from Valdese and a resident assistant in Morrison, is a community educator at the center. She said she became a volunteer to learn more about sexual assaults and rape.

"Let's face it, when your parents tell you about the birds and the bees, they never tell you rape is a possibility that you have to be aware of," Kaufman said.

Rape crisis companions and child advocates work with victims of rape, sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

Before becoming child advocates, volunteers must be trained as rape crisis companions.

Community educators conduct programs for many area organizations including schools, elderly groups, businesses and UNC fraternities, sororities and residence halls.

"Seeing people learn and understand about sexual assaults and rape is a very satisfying experience," Kaufman said. "Creating this understanding is the ultimate goal of most of the volunteers and the center. We try to reverse what people have been socialized to believe. We make them realize that the victim is not at fault, that they are the victim."

Rape crisis volunteers go through a 50-hour training program, which includes basic training in the facts about sexual assault and rape,

improving listening skills, preventing of sex crimes and helping a victim deal with these crimes.

Center director Mary Ann Chap said volunteers of all ages and races are needed. "We especially need minority women, men and residents of northern Orange County," she said.

Kristina Groover, community education and outreach coordinator, said, "We have a range of volunteers from University students to senior citizens. It works best to have a variety of people to connect as companions to the victims."

Volunteering at the center can be a rewarding experience, Groover said. "I think our volunteer training is a very good, thorough program, especially for those involved in law,

medicine, health care and women's issues, because it combines background and practical experiences," she said.

Volunteers are on call 24 hours; they carry beepers after regular business hours. North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Student Health Service, University police and victims call for assistance, and the volunteers provide on-the-spot assistance.

The recent rapes at Duke University have not affected the number of rapes or volunteers in Orange County, Chap said. She attributed this to the fact that people in Orange County do not consider Durham as part of their community.

For more information, call the Orange County Rape Crisis Center at 968-4647. Training begins on March 4.

Teachers

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base pay applies for all teachers, and that is inadequate for our teachers. Pay raises have to come from a state level which has more taxing ability than the local system."

A statewide tax increase would be supported by the NCAE if it were necessary to increase teacher pay, Husted said.

The group is generally disappointed with the governor's education policies.

"A governor of a state can provide

a better education system, and he hasn't done that," Husted said.

Martin will try to meet with the teachers on Tuesday, said Tim Pittman, the governor's press secretary.

"He probably will continue to explain that this is a tight budget year," Pittman said. "Even the legislature is not going farther than the governor has."

An education summit will be held on Monday and will include discussions on increasing teacher pay, he said. The governor submitted his budget to the legislature in December, when the actual amount of revenue to fund the budget was unknown.

"We hope still there will be a change before 1990," Pittman said. "His goal is to do better."

Parking

of parking spaces allocated to students be cut by 350 in the 1989-1990 school year. The proposal also calls for a \$2 fee for students who park in North Campus lots after 5 p.m.

The committee also recommended that student government be allowed to set the criteria for distributing

permits to students.

Student government officials presented Hardin with a counterproposal Monday. The students said they are chiefly concerned with the elimination of student parking spaces. The proposal states that students do not occupy 350 spaces on North and

Mid Campus combined.

The ad hoc committee had good intentions when they made their recommendations, Student Congress Speaker Neil Riemann said. "When they came out with it, they thought they were doing people a favor," he said.

Attendance at today's forum will be "lousy," Riemann said, because of its poor location. He fears attendance at Monday's forums will be adversely affected because of night classes and poor publicity, he said.

Hardin is expected to attend the forum at 6:30 on Monday, Riemann said.

Donald Boulton, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, said Thursday that he doesn't know what kind of attendance to expect, but

hopes students will attend to critique the preliminary proposal and provide new ideas.

"I don't know what to think, but I know what to hope," he said. "And I hope they will be well attended."

Riemann said the committee would only consider changes if students attended and voiced their opinions.

"If they (committee members) see that hundreds of students are annoyed, they may change it," he said. "But we have to have a good turnout for that to happen. If we do have a good turnout and they still don't make any changes, we may have to raise some Cain."

Student Body President Kevin Martin said he didn't know whether the committee would consider any changes.

"I hope they'll listen," he said.

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Candidates

from page 1

"It has taken a long time for advertisers to respect it," she said. "I really want to keep it, because it's where I want to put more arts coverage."

Although the DTH is partially funded with student fees, Keschull said, "I support our right to endorse political and student candidates."

The DTH will maintain extensive University news coverage, Keschull

said, even though she said she had a special interest in state and national news. She served as state and national news editor for a year.

"This summer when I worked for the Tar Heel (the weekly summer edition of the DTH), I learned a lot about University coverage," she said. "The University coverage is primary to the DTH."

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