

CAMPUS and CITY

Freshman: A word that needs changing?

By TIM BURROWS
Staff Writer

Freshmen at many universities just aren't what they used to be. At different universities across the country, freshmen are being referred to by names such as "freshpeople," "freshmores" and "first-years," as wordsmiths struggle to coin the perfect gender-neutral term. Meanwhile, many of those students nationwide who still bear the traditional label are rising in revolt. Supporters of the term freshman are on the defensive, fighting to keep the word from joining the list of those deemed incorrect. Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., is one of many universities that officially

banished the word from publications. Dean Mary Akeramann said the school had eliminated the word in an on-going campaign to more adequately reflect campus realities. Dormitory, like freshmen, was eliminated because students did more than sleep, as the meaning of the word indicated. Other schools have informally discouraged using freshman. At Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, campus publications use the word freshman, but first-year is more commonly used on campus, said Vice President Coleen Grissom. Tara Lavine, president of the undergraduate council of students at Brown University in Rhode Island, said, "You

would call them first-years, not freshmen." Unofficial enforcement, such as criticizing students who use freshmen, was carried out by the student body. "It's very informal," said Lavine. Brown student body's attitude stems from its traditionally progressive stance, and no plans are underway to seek official recognition of the term "first-year," she said. Other universities have not made the change yet. The Board of Trustees at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, voted down a proposal presented by students to refer to those entering school as first-year students. Arlene Meyer, director of publica-

tions at Miami University, said "The trustees didn't believe they were sexist." The school uses the term first-year student for students entering a two-year program, and the trustees want to avoid possible confusion between the two terms, she said. Several student newspapers have taken the matter into their own hands, such as The Miami Student, which calls entering students first-year freshmen. Other newspapers, such as the Brown Daily Herald, have taken the opposite stance and resisted the new terminology. UNC students have not expressed strong opinions favoring either side,

and the issue appears to have almost totally avoided notice. "I don't see what difference it would make," said freshman Nikki Jones. Some members of the University community do not share that perspective. Mary Tirrell, a philosophy professor, said she hoped the language would change. "I think it would be a good idea and show more respect for the students," she said. Linda Wagner-Martin, an English professor, said that the change would be for the best, but that it was unlikely to occur. "Language changes very slowly," she said.



University BRIEFLY

Ackland gets service for hearing-impaired

People who have difficulty hearing or speaking now have telephone access to the Ackland Art Museum because of the museum's new Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD).

The TDD was purchased in part with money contributed by the Meridian Sertoma Club of Chapel Hill. The museum's new TDD number is (919) 932-0837.

The TDD is the most recent step toward better access for Ackland visitors. Beth Shaw, a specialist in disability issues, has been hired as the museum's Glazo Educator for Outreach and Access.

The Ackland staff hopes to provide additional services to visitors, including a listening system to help people who have difficulty hearing during museum programs and tours, and interpreting services for all museum programs.

A sign language interpreter will be at the museum's re-opening Dec. 2 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone who would like to request an oral or cued speech interpreter for the opening events or who would like to request additional information about the museum should call the new TDD number or the museum's telephone number, (919) 966-5736.

Law school names information director

The School of Law named Ellen Smith director of public information and continuing legal education.

Smith, a native of Atlanta, comes to the school from Washington, D.C., where she was manager of member relations for the Aerospace Industries Association of America. She also served as media relations officer for a U.S. senator.

Journalism school receives \$5,000 grant

The Leo Burnett Creative Development Fund has contributed \$5,000 to the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

The school will use \$4,000 to fund the Leo Burnett Creative Scholarship and the Leo Burnett Minority Scholarship. The rest will go for advertising materials for the school's library.

The Leo Burnett Creative Scholarship is given to the top writer in the school's advertising copywriting program, selected by a committee on the basis of his or her portfolio. The Leo Burnett Minority Scholarship, which is awarded to an outstanding minority student, helps the school and the Leo Burnett company further their commitment to cultural diversity in advertising.

Twaddle drawings showing this month

"CHPL HL," an exhibition of large-scale charcoal drawings by UNC visiting artist Randy Twaddle, will open with a reception for the artist Friday at 5 p.m. in the Hanes Art Center.

Twaddle also will give a slide presentation on his work and related topics Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

The reception, slide presentation and show are free and open to the public.

Parents of disabled can get information

Staff members of the Family Support Network, Division of Community Pediatrics, can provide information about diseases, disabilities and services for children with special needs and their families.

They also can help parents of children with special needs locate other parents with similar children.

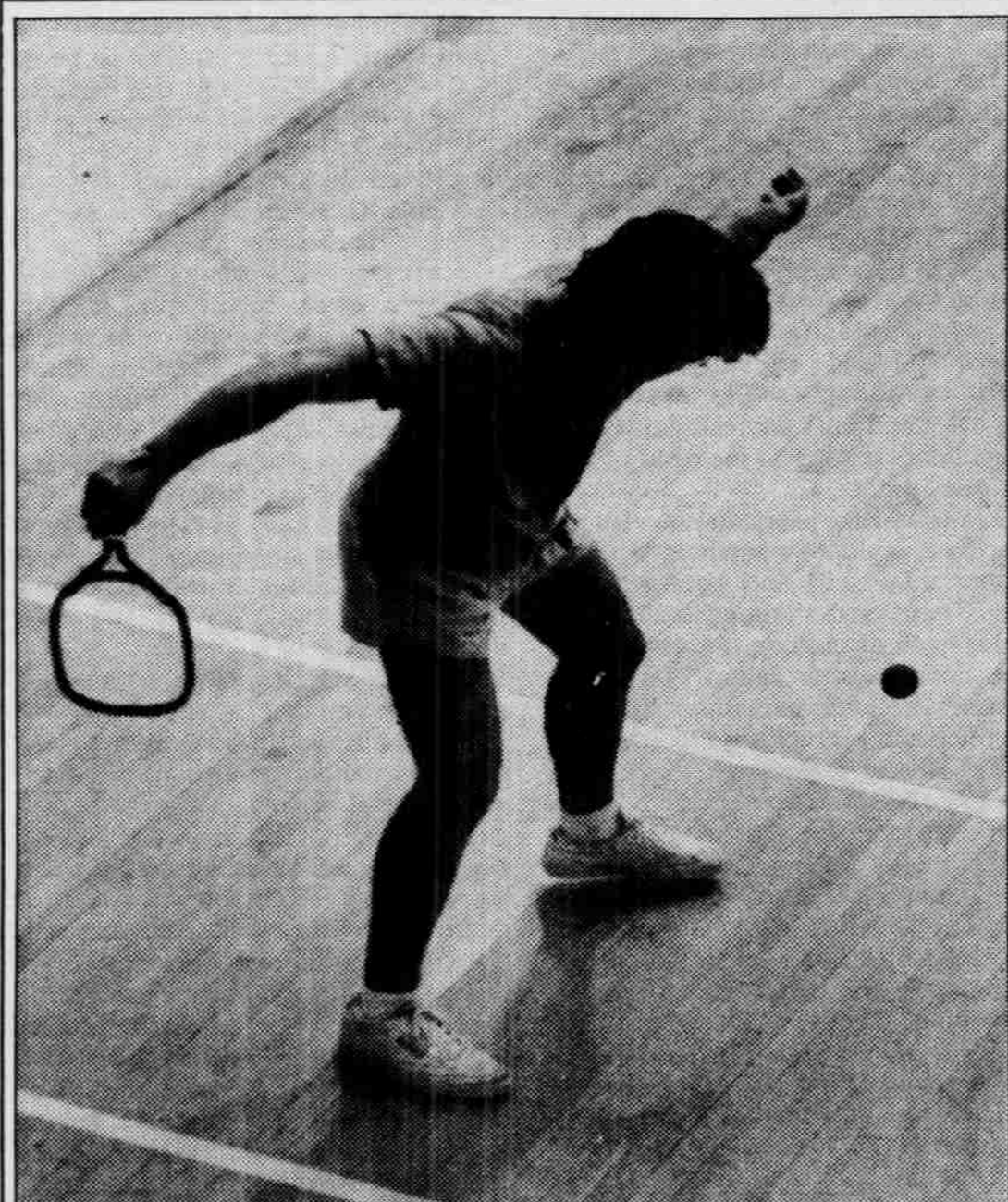
The service is available Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 966-2841 from Chapel Hill or 1-800-TLC-0042 statewide for information.

Library group to host maps program

The Friends of the Library will sponsor a Nov. 14 program, "Mapping the World and Beyond: Selections from the Maps Collection at UNC."

The program, in the Rare Book Reading Room of Wilson Library, will feature Celai Pratt, maps librarian. The 5:30 p.m. program is free and open to the public.

— From staff reports



DTH/Jonathan Grubbs

Raising a racquet

Jeff Walker, a freshman from Boone, prepares to swing at a racquetball in class in Fetzer Gym Wednesday.

Soviet students discuss politics, election process

By SOYIA ELLISON
Staff Writer

In the Soviet Union, citizens celebrated the anniversary of the October 1917 revolution Wednesday with marches, demonstrations, parties and fireworks. During the three-day celebration, the Soviets spent most of their time at marches and parties hosted by friends and relatives.

But in America, four Soviet exchange students took their first convertible ride. They sat in the back seat of a Volkswagen Rabbit, singing Russian folk songs and waving the Soviet flag in honor of the holiday.

Valery Marfitsin, a Soviet student who is studying English at UNC this semester, explained the songs.

"They are singing songs from the White Army," he said. "Now that everyone is fed up with anything red, the songs have become very popular."

The students were traveling to Jordan Lake to celebrate the Soviet holiday with music, food and vodka.

Zhanna Bouzova said the holiday was not as much of a political demonstration as it used to be. It is now more of a chance to get together and celebrate, he said.

Marfitsin said he remembered when the festivities were mandatory.

"I remember when I first came to the (Rostov State) University in 1983, we were not allowed to go home for the holiday because they wanted to be sure we went to the demonstrations," he said. "Each class had to vote on two delegates who would be allowed to go home."

Politics dominated the discussion of the celebration. Marfitsin told a story about a party held May 1, 1960, that was similar to the one at Jordan Lake.

His father was at the 1960 party in Sverdlovsk when it was interrupted by a loud noise and a trail of smoke, he said. The American U2 reconnaissance plane flown by Gary Powers had been shot down.

"I want to drink to better relations (between the United States and the Soviet Union) and to no more need for reconnaissance planes," Marfitsin said.

Tremendous changes have taken place in the Soviet Union in the past few years, he said.

Although most of the group wore red pins decorated with pictures of Lenin, and one student wore the red scarf of the Young Communist League, Marfitsin said most of the exchange students would not call themselves communists.

"I am still registered with the Young Communist Party, and I have not changed it because of all the bureaucracy," he said. "I am not afraid (to change his registration). I'm just too lazy to go down and deal with it."

"I want to drink to better relations (between the United States and the Soviet Union) and to no more need for reconnaissance planes."

— Valery Marfitsin, Soviet student

The Soviet students expressed mixed views on the American election process.

Irina said the process did not differ much from the Soviet Union's.

"But in our country, we do not have elections for the party, only for the person," she said. Victor Osipov said he was not impressed with the American system. "It is not very decent," he said. "It's a struggle for power. It's not beautiful. It's only promising to struggle for peace."

He also said he was very surprised by the outcome of the election race between Harvey Gantt and Jesse Helms.

"I heard the conversations with the students and they all said they were going to vote for Gantt, and I don't understand how Helms won," he said.

Yury Plevkov said he thought the American election process was quick, easy and comfortable. But he said he was dissatisfied with the outcome of the race.

"I really wanted Gantt to win," he said. "I think it would be good to have a senator who was black."

Marfitsin said he heard Gantt last month when he spoke in the Pit. "It was very interesting, but I didn't think he (Gantt) was very sophisticated. His arguments would not have convinced people in the Soviet Union."

"We are fed up with promises," he said. "Gantt was very matter-of-fact about what he was going to do, but we want to know how the politicians plan to fulfill their promises."

Sergei Chernicov said the recent weather in Chapel Hill would be considered summer weather in the Soviet Union. "In our country it is snowing now," he said. "We have to wear very warm clothes to go out."

Jewish students turn to UJA

By JENNIFER MUELLER
Staff Writer

The UNC branch of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) is a way for Jewish students to become active in their culture and work to increase campus awareness about the plight of Jews around the world, said Dave Kessel, United Jewish Appeal chairman.

UJA is a worldwide organization that raises funds for programs for Jewish people around the world. Although a campus branch of UJA existed under the UNC B'nai B'rith Hillel for several years, Kessel decided to improve the program after returning from Israel last December.

"It's much different than it ever was," he said.

"I see it as a Campus Y or United Way type committee. It shows the support, dedication, interest and knowledge of Jewish students of Carolina for their Jewish counterparts abroad."

He said he believed that UJA, because it was a humanitarian non-religious group, united students with their Judaism and was more interesting than traditional Jewish activities students often avoid.

"There's a phenomenon among students to not want to be religious, to just acclimate themselves to campus," he said. "Their only outlet is the Hillel center, and that's not normally a priority. It makes them feel more Jewish."

The UNC group will concentrate on raising students' awareness of the international Jewish community.

Kim Blass, one of those members, said she was committed to UJA. "A lot of people are not aware that there's still a problem going on today," she said.

Elliott Zenick, committee member, said, "Hopefully we will give students on campus an idea of what's going on and point out to people that there is discrimination against minorities worldwide."

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— Kim Blass

UNC's branch of UJA's fund raising efforts will target only Jewish students, but Kessel said he hoped everyone would take advantage of the programs the campaign would sponsor.

Some of the money raised on campus is donated to local organizations such as the Hillel Center and Bloomenthal Nursing Home.

Kessel said funds also were contributed to educational and medical centers, as well as summer camps and nursing homes.

The group will begin fund-raising efforts next semester.

"Ideally, we'd like to have a fundraiser with food and information where people on the core committee could mingle," Kessel said.

UJA will solicit money from Jewish students who have given their names to the Hillel Center. They will probably ask for \$25 donations, Kessel said.

"Giving a donation without receiving something is symbolic that you really have commitment and interest in worldwide Jewry," he said.

Blass said, "We don't want it to be people just throwing their change at us. That's why we're having the speakers before the drives."

Dave Kaplan, a committee member, said the contributions UJA sent to Israel affected the aid Congress gives the country annually. Although he believes the campaign will have little campus-wide appeal because of the small UNC Jewish population, he said he hoped to raise between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

Rabbi Fisher, the group's adviser and a rabbi at the Hillel Center, said the project was an important part of helping

Jews around the world. Although Hillel has given the group some preliminary funds, the UJA campus campaign will not be associated with Hillel, members said.

Kessel said student response had been very positive. The committee is looking forward to an educational and profitable year, he said. The Jewish population on campus does not have to be religious to be involved in their heritage.

UJA also is attempting to airlift middle-aged Jewish men from Ethiopia to Israel. During the late 1970s, UJA airlifted women and children from Ethiopia as part of "Operation Moses."

The UNC chapter of UJA will send one student to Israel in December to explore the Jews' situations.

As many as 1,000 Jews enter Israel from Russia each week, Kessel said. UJA helps these people adjust to life in a new country, which includes finding them jobs and a place to live, as well as teaching them Hebrew.

His trip to Israel in December created a personal interest in the needs of Israeli Jews, Kessel said. During the two weeks he was there, he visited developing towns, nursing homes, educational and medical centers, vocational training centers and absorption centers.

His experiences led him to try to build up the existing UJA, which he said never had momentum at UNC in the past.

UJA also will sponsor a speaker during Human Rights week. Joel Schwartz, a political science professor, will speak Nov. 12 on anti-semitism and the situation of Russian Jews.

Schwartz will speak at 8 p.m. in room 226 of the Student Union.

Kessel and Blass said they also hoped to have another speaker later in the semester.

Members said they hoped to hold a social event in the spring with the Duke UJA campaign.



DTH/Jonathan Grubbs

Break out the bubbly

Jennifer Joye, a junior geology major from Gibson, and Lea Lackey, a junior Spanish major from Tulsa, Okla., enjoy themselves blowing bubbles on McCorkle Place Wednesday afternoon.

Lower temperatures, slowing economy cause rise in number of shelter clients

By ERIK ROGERS
Staff Writer

A drop in nightly temperatures is leading to a gradual increase in the number of people going to the local Inter-Faith Council's homeless shelter and community kitchen.

But shelter manager Chris Moran said people needed to be made aware that the weather was only part of the problem. The economy is also influencing the number of people staying at the shelter.

"There is a natural coming and going of people to and from the homeless shelter, depending on their needs," Moran said. A myth lurks among the press and citizens that bad weather is the only reason more people turn to the shelter for fortification, he said.

"That may be true for the bigger

cities, but that is not the case locally," Moran said, adding that January and August prove to be the "high months" for people flowing into the shelter.

"I'm sure that is because those are usually the coldest and hottest months of the year," Moran said.

Nevertheless, a gradual influx of people staying at the shelter and near-capacity situations at night have accompanied the recent nightly frigid temperatures, he said. Moran said that while no one was sleeping on the floor, nearly all of the 50 beds had been occupied in recent nights.

The same pattern of increase is occurring at the community kitchen.

"We are serving more meals now than we ever did," Moran said. A recent count reveals the kitchen has already served 32,000 meals — an amount al-

ready equal to the amount of meals served for all of 1989. Comparatively speaking, Moran said they were expecting a 64 percent increase over the number of meals served last year.

Grace Higgs, co-coordinator of the community kitchen, said they were serving an average of 150 meals per day for the first few days of November. That is up from the 120 meals per day for October.

The homeless shelter along with the kitchen are serving more men than women, but the number of women coming to the shelter is gradually increasing.

"Right now, 23 to 24 percent of the people coming to the shelter are women," Moran said. The average stay for an individual at the shelter, which is open 24 hours a day, is 17 days, he said.