

# New house plans need close scrutiny

There is more to analyzing a house plan than looking at appearance and counting the bedrooms. Anyone considering building needs a plan which is flexible, has good traffic patterns and meets family needs, say extension housing specialists at North Carolina State University.

Fist, make a list of activities your family enjoys. This may include hobbies, woodworking, sewing, reading or playing musical instruments. Is a patio or deck needed? Make sure there is

space enough for your family's activities.

How many bathrooms do you need, and where should they be? Be sure the bathroom is large enough. One five feet square is the smallest area that will take an average tub.

Do you really need a large kitchen? How many people will be in there to work and socialize?

Do you prefer to eat in the kitchen, in a dining area or in a for-

mal dining room? Some families prefer two separate eating areas.

Where will the laundry be done? Lack of storage space is a common complaint. Does the house plan you are looking at have enough storage space for cleaning equipment, canned goods and off-season clothing?

Do you need a carport or garage? Should it be attached to the house? Will a basement or attic be used enough to make either worthwhile?

# United Metropolitan opens shelter

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"The church committed itself a year or so ago to become more involved in the community," Kennedy said, "so we began to look at social problems.

"The Rev. (Donald) Ballard (the church's pastor) explained that he wanted to take religion beyond the doors of the church."

After the idea of a day shelter was broached, it was approved by the church's Committee for Social Action and its Committee for Benevolent Action.

The three or four volunteers who will operate the day program underwent training by Crisis Control Center personnel Sunday afternoon.

"We feel, with the dedication of those church members and with the wisdom of Rev. Ballard, that we have enough people to make an impact," Kennedy said.

The Rev. Ginny Britt, director of Crisis Control, said the training session was conducted to alert the volunteers as to when to call the rescue squad and how to cope with other emergencies.

"We basically discuss who they (the homeless) are and how to deal with them," she said. "One of the things we have learned is that you have to be firm. We use peer pressure a lot to control the situation."

The night shelter program began in the winter of 1982-83, Britt said, because "we have had people in this community freeze to death."

In fact, the program's sole purpose is to provide shelter from the cold. "These people are homeless," she said. "(But) shelter is not a solution. Shelter is a way to keep them from freezing."

Britt said homeless people generally fall into three categories: chronic substance abusers, mainly alcoholics; people who probably shouldn't have been released from mental hospitals, and people who are just down on their luck.

Many of those in the second category wander around and don't take their medicine, Britt said, while those in the third category often include people who have come south looking for a job, have run short of money and need a place to sleep.

She said about 50 to 75 persons per night show up at the night shelter to sleep on 4x8-foot rubber mats bought by the six churches that sponsor the program. Volunteers watch them all night, then give them a hot drink, usually coffee or apple cider, in the morning.

About 230 persons slept in night shelters last winter, Britt said, which was more people than the previous year and more people than this year. She thinks the decrease in numbers may be due to a greater awareness among mental health officials that people unable to care for themselves should not be released.

And, although the day shelter program wasn't planned until two weeks before Christmas, she thinks United Metropolitan's contribution will have a definite impact.

The church is trying to find a television set to keep the shelter visitors entertained, while the city Recreation Department is providing board games and cards.

Persuading the Baptists to allow cards in the church was quite an accomplishment, Britt said, emphasizing that, while shelter visitors may play cards, they definitely won't be allowed to play for money.

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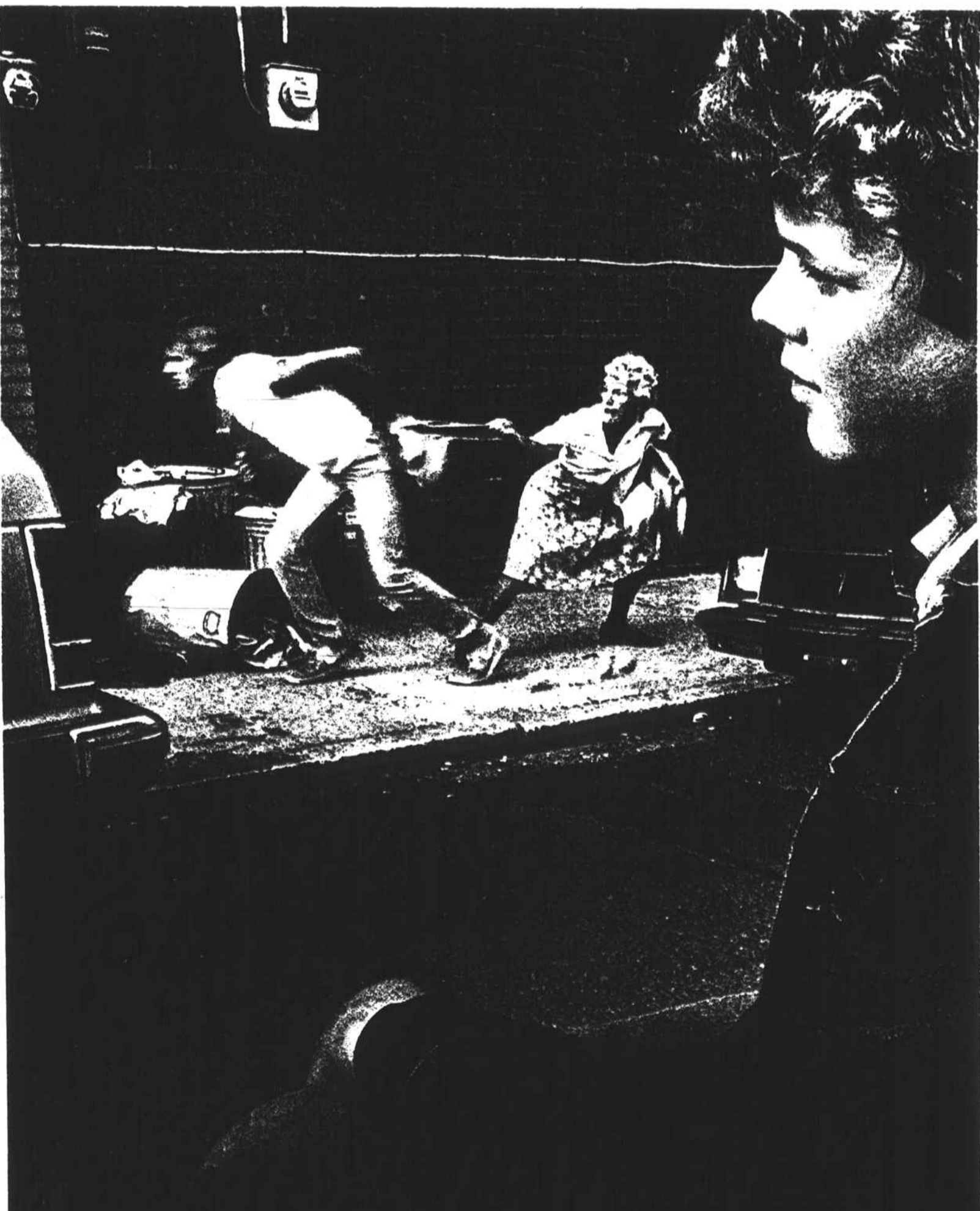
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