

# The Carolina Journal

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## Critical Issues program opens

By Les Bowen

Approximately 100 community leaders from the Metrolina area attended a symposium on "Urban Land Use and Neighborhoods" sponsored by the UNCC Institute for Urban Studies on February 6. The symposium which was held

("Critical Issues '76" is) ... "A community environmental education program centering on the topic of land use." Mary Dawn Liston

downtown in the Jefferson First Union Tower was the first of four meetings scheduled in February as part of the Institute's "Critical Issues '76" program.

Project Director Mary Dawn Liston called the federally-funded pilot program, "A community environmental education program centering on the topic of land use." She said the Institute was "trying to educate the public on very relevant, extremely important local issues."

"Critical Issues '76" is a three-phase program. The first phase is the February symposium series. In the first symposium UNCC professors lectured on such subjects as "The Lure of the Land: An Historic Perspective" and "Why do

Neighborhoods Change?"

The February 13 Symposium will concern flooding, the February 20 symposium features transportation and the final symposium is entitled "Land Use Decisions."

The middle phase of the program will afford ordinary citizens an opportunity to discuss local issues in study groups. For a two-dollar fee any group of eight or more people can order a "Critical Issues '76" packet including a program workbook, 35 millimeter slides and a cassette tape.

This phase of the program, billed in the "Critical Issues" brochure as "a four-week multi-media program for citizens of all ages, interest and political persuasions," is being heavily publicized in newspapers and on local interview-format television shows, according to Liston.

Liston called the final phase of the program the "consensus or feedback stage." She said the various study groups will arrive at conclusions regarding the problems they have studied, and the conclusions will be made available to the media and to the County Commission.

Liston said the current phase of the program, the symposium series is "an outlet for people in the various disciplines

to work with community people on these issues."

"The program originated two years ago," Liston said, "When we wrote the proposal, we wanted to do an environmental education program dealing with either land use or energy use. We decided land use would have a greater

potential for interdisciplinary discussions."

The program will continue in 1977 with different topics still related to land use according to Liston. She said the Institute will apply for additional federal funding to expand the program into a five-county study.

Photo Courtesy of Rogues 'n Rascals



Associate Dean of Students, Betty Chafin

## Betty Chafin: UNCC needs increase in community visibility

By Les Bowen

"One of the main things we need to do to improve our relationship with the city is to increase the school's visibility. I think the upcoming bond referendum is a golden opportunity for the University to tell its story to the whole Metrolina area. I also think we need to look toward the day of having a downtown campus." Betty Chafin, UNCC Dean of Students and Charlotte City Councilwoman. Ms. Chafin was responding to the question "What is the University doing to improve its relationship with the Charlotte Community?"

"We're going to be trying to involve a lot of people in the bond effort," she said. "We need to make people aware of the fantastic resources we have out here." Chafin said the Cone University Center addition will draw many local and regional conferences to the campus, increasing public awareness of UNCC.

"The basketball team has had a tremendous impact on public awareness," Chafin said, "and the Urban Institute is going to be doing a number of things to aid City Council, such as helping with the transit planning process."

Chafin said she thinks the University has a tremendous expansion capability, "And the community will grow out to the University, particularly if a hospital is located out here...I think there will

definitely be a hospital located in this area soon."

Chafin mentioned in her campaign for City Council the need for UNCC people to become involved in local government. Last week she said, "I've already nominated one person from UNCC to a board (Political Science Professor Dr. William McCoy, nominated to the zoning board of adjustment), and I hope to get more of our people involved in the future."

"I think one of the main problems is

"...we need to look toward the day of having a downtown campus." Betty Chafin

not that people have a bad image of UNCC, but rather that they have no image of it at all. Getting people out to the campus for things like basketball games and conferences would certainly help the school," she said. "The International Festival last fall was a good example of this."

Chafin also mentioned the Urban Institute's "Critical Issues '76" program as something helpful to UNCC's relationship with the community. "They're putting together a quality program that speaks to the critical issues—at least from my perspective," she said.

## Class Scheduling is headache

By Steve Bass

"I would like to sign up for..."

"Sorry that class is closed."

"How about..."

"I'm sorry every class at UNCC is closed for this semester, if you try coming back next year we may have just what you want."

Frustrations such as these are common for many UNCC students during registration periods, leading students to wonder what sinister mind created the class schedules. Bob Gwaltney, UNCC's registrar, explained the procedure. Basically, it is done in the individual departments by the chairmen of the departments. Depending on the size of the

"The chairmen will determine the class schedule based on their previous experience. They will think about volume increase, and get the agreement of the faculty on the schedule." UNCC registrar Bob Gwaltney

department, sometimes the chairman will be assisted by a member of the staff."

"The chairman will determine the class schedule based on their previous experience, they will think about volume increase, and get the agreement of the faculty on the schedule," said Gwaltney.

The schedule is then sent to Dr. Phillip Hildreth's, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, office to insure the schedule is meeting with approval. This element of the procedure is crucial. As Gwaltney said, "(Dr. Hildreth) checks to see that all the classes the chairman suggest are approved classes, and to make sure that the classes are spread over the day."

The tentative schedule is then sent to Registrar Gwaltney. "We just build the schedule, and print it."

The registrar's office main contribution comes during the preadvising period. "When our students

pre-advise we take the cards and key-punch them. We then have a print-out which we send to the chairman of the department to give the departments an idea of what to expect, before registration day. If the print-out shows that a certain class will be over the class limit, then the departments will be able to shift the schedule."

"Of course the print-out is not very accurate, because it's speculative, and students very often change their schedules when they get to registration," said Gwaltney.

The final problem with determining schedules is department heads are asked to set a schedule a month before students are ready to register. During the spring, when the departments are scheduling fall classes, this is an extremely difficult problem. Gwaltney said, "that increases in enrollment is the most difficult problem, as the chairmen must determine their schedules based on previous enrollments. This year the freshmen class increased only two or three students so the English department hit it near perfect. Our transfer population increased some 13 percent and departments that transfers tend to enter, like Business had a big problem."

Gwaltney feels the answer to the problem will be the installation of the

"When the new system comes in we will be able to know class demands in advance. This is extremely important, because it is much easier to get the schedule adjusted..." UNCC registrar Bob Gwaltney

new computerized registration system. "When the new system comes in we will be able to know class demands in advance. This is extremely important, because it is much easier to get the schedule adjusted, and get part-time teachers in June, instead of August 29, to start classes the next day."