

CAMPUS AND CITY

# Military's policy on gays debated

By Maile Carpenter  
Staff Writer

President Clinton's proposal to lift the military's ban on gays and lesbians would not necessarily protect homosexuals from prosecution for sexual behavior "unbecoming of a military officer," a West Point graduate and former army officer said Thursday night.

The former soldier was one of about 20 people who attended a discussion on gays in the military Thursday night at Internationalist Books.

Maureen Linehan, a lesbian and former military officer, said that Clinton could change the military's administrative code to formally allow homosexuals in the military but that gays and lesbians could still be prosecuted for

sodomy.

"Just changing the administrative code doesn't change (justice codes)," Linehan said. "There's a lot of misconception about how the military functions."

Although Clinton could change the administrative code through executive orders, the president cannot change the military's justice codes without first obtaining congressional approval, Linehan said.

"The issue is not as simple as it is being portrayed in the military," she said.

Linehan said military life was difficult for homosexuals because heterosexuality always was assumed.

"Both my partner and I chose to resign," she said. "We left because we

felt that our relationship couldn't remain intact in the military."

Chapel Hill Town Council member Joe Herzenberg, who called himself the "only openly gay elected official between Jacksonville and New York," said the debate about homosexuals in the military was a milestone for gay rights activists.

"(Clinton) has transformed this thing into a national debate over gay and lesbian civil rights," Herzenberg said. He added that it was ironic that the gay community had not started the debate.

"Gay people, in a sense, did not choose this issue," Herzenberg said. "It was thrust upon us."

Linehan said many gays and lesbians remained in the military because they encountered commanders who were

sympathetic.

"A lot of the decisions in the military are made arbitrarily by the commander," she said.

Michael Steele, a gay man and former member of the U.S. Air Force, said the military could be a positive experience for gays and lesbians, despite the current ban.

"(The Air Force) was the best experience of my adult life," Steele said. "It's like a prototype for the rest of this experience called democracy."

Steele said there were ways to get around the problem of the military's ban on homosexuals.

"I've experienced more stress (working) in Durham than I ever encountered in the military," Steele said.

Dan Watts, a University housing of-

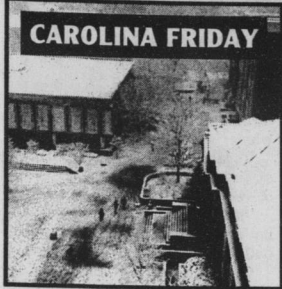
ficial, said homosexuals would still face difficulty in the service if the ban were lifted.

"I don't think it's going to be an easy road just because of the stroke of a pen," Watts said.

Thursday's discussion also alluded to the feminist movement when one woman suggested that allowing gay men in the military would finally force straight men to experience the discomfort of being "hit on" or "sized-up" by co-workers.

Herzenberg said he thought that lifting the ban would help straight men sympathize with the plight of sexually harassed women.

"For the first time, straight men are being forced to think like women think," he said.



## U.S. Education Secretary set to speak today

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley will speak at 2 p.m. today in the Union auditorium.

Riley, a former South Carolina governor, will discuss the effect of President Bill Clinton's economic package on education. He and other Cabinet secretaries are travelling to their home regions to explain Clinton's economic package, which was released at a joint session of Congress Wednesday night.

Cablevision will air the speech at 7 p.m. Monday in Chapel Hill.

The speech is free and open to the public.

## Beating victim, gay Marine coming to UNC

Openly gay Marine Sgt. Justin Elzie and Crae Pridgen, the gay man beaten by three Marines in Wilmington earlier this month, will speak at UNC as part of the University's Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week.

Elzie, a Camp Lejeune Marine, came out on ABC's "World News Tonight" in January and since then has appeared on MTV and in numerous newspaper articles. Elzie will speak at 7 p.m. March 30 in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

Pridgen, who was beaten outside a Wilmington bar the morning of Jan. 30, will speak at 7 p.m. March 31 in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week, sponsored by Bisexuals, Gay Men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity, is scheduled from March 29 through April 2. In addition to speakers, there will be a rally, marches and several panel discussions.

## North Carolina second in cases of gonorrhea

North Carolina ranks second in the nation in the reported number of gonorrhea cases, according to a UNC nursing expert who specializes in venereal diseases.

The state's number of cases of gonorrhea has more than doubled during the first five weeks of 1993 compared to the same period in 1992, said Inge Corless, assistant professor of nursing.

As of Feb. 6, there were 2,531 reported cases compared to last year's figure of 1,120.

Only Texas reported a higher number of cases. North Carolina ranks ahead of California, New York and Florida, all states with much larger populations.

Corless said she didn't know why the number of cases was so high. North Carolina ranked much higher than border states Virginia and South Carolina.

## Lecture part of Jewish diversity celebration

Barbara Johnson, a professor of anthropology from Ithaca College in New York, will give a free lecture on Jewish communities in India and Israel tonight at 8:15 p.m. at the Hillel Foundation.

Johnson's lecture, titled "Our Community in Two Worlds: The Cochin Paradesi Jews in India and Israel," is part of N.C. Hillel's spring series, "Celebrating Jewish Diversity."

The Hillel Foundation is located at 210 West Cameron Ave.

## Experts to discuss prenatal care today

An obstetrics and gynecology expert will discuss "Why is Prenatal Care an Issue in African American Communities?: Demonstrations of Successful Programs that might be Expanded Globally" today in Berryhill Hall.

Dr. Ezra Davidson, professor and chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles, will speak during the annual Zallicoffer lecture at the School of Medicine.

Davidson's lecture will focus on the importance of prenatal care for blacks. The free speech is open to the public.

## UNC-system official given Hollins Medal

UNC-system Vice President for Communications Wyndham Robertson recently received the Hollins Medal from Hollins College, the 150-year-old college's most prestigious award. Robertson was recognized for his distinguished career as an economist, journalist and educator.

Robertson, a 1958 Hollins graduate, worked at Standard Oil Co. and Fortune Magazine before joining the UNC administration in 1986.

She is the only female vice president in the 16-campus system.

The Hollins medal awards women who excel in service and contributions to Hollins College and the field of education.

## Toy swords take whack out of sport

By Jenni Spitz  
Staff Writer

Look out, Nerf.

Here comes Safer Swords Inc., a local company marketing a soft foam toy called the "Wacky Whacker," designed to "shield swashbucklers from stings (and) stabs."

Ron Miller, coach of the UNC fencing team, invented and patented the new foam saber. Made to be used like real fencing weapons, Wacky Whackers come in 18 colors and two models, one as toy and a longer, 28-inch sword, for competition use.

Miller stumbled across the invention by accident. He was searching for a sword to use for warm-weather fencing practice because heat makes it difficult to wear protective equipment.

One day when he was stuffing gymnastic mats, it dawned on him that the foam used in the mats would be an ideal material for making sabers.

"It's a superior foam to anything Nerf uses," he said. Wacky Whackers are made of mini-cell foam, which has 100-percent elasticity.

Miller said the Whackers never were intended to be a toy. But when he took the foam sabers home, his children fell in love with them. Thus, the nonfunctional use for the Wacky Whacker came into play.

The sword is sold with an instruction manual, which includes rules of play adopted from general fencing rules. The manual also suggests the Wacky Whacker be used for "tension relief around the home or office" or "duels to settle family disputes."

Miller said his toys were safe for all ages and levels of skill, but each is sold with eye guards that resemble swimming goggles, for liability reasons.

James Williams, a member of the fencing team, said that in a sport in which injury was always a threat, equipment like the Wacky Whacker was ideal. "You can practice with it without being worried about getting hurt."

Sophomore Ginny Moore, who took one of Miller's fencing classes last year, said the Wacky Whacker helped get her aggressions out. "Married couples should buy these," she said. "It would solve all their problems."

Safer Swords Inc. has marketed its product in three categories: on a promotional level at events such as the National Junior Olympics in Fencing, on an athletic level for team and class prac-



Ron Miller, UNC fencing coach, invented Wacky Whackers for team practice

tice, and on an entertainment level, as a toy.

Wacky Whackers are available at the Toy Corner in University Mall, Sam's Sports at Timberlyne Shopping Center, and Lisa's Cards and Gifts at Cole Park Plaza for about \$10 each.

Safer Swords Inc. plans eventually to distribute Wacky Whackers nationally and internationally, Miller said. The company also might produce some spin-off products using mini-cell foam, such as a mask insert to enhance safety and comfort and other such protective padding.

"This foam is so great," Miller said. "Everybody who's used it has wanted

more."

Miller said that after 26 years of coaching fencing, being a toy inventor had forced him to learn a lot about business and bureaucracy.

"The hardest part was getting a patent," he said. He invested \$6,000 and nearly two years to secure the toy for Safer Swords. The patent office kept putting his foam toy in the same category as a butcher knife.

Miller said he might market the Wacky Whacker directly on campus during final exams.

"Students need these," he said. "What better way to relieve stress?"

Might one suggest a butcher knife?

## New Union president promises to offer something for everyone

By Candace Watson  
Staff Writer

More diverse programming is high on the new Carolina Union Activities Board president's list of things to do.

The Carolina Union Board of Directors recently appointed Maleikka Hardy as the new CUAB president. Hardy was selected through an application and interview process.

Hardy, a junior from Charlotte, said she wanted to continue to provide diverse programs as well as programs that would attract large groups of students. "I want to provide a program a month that a majority of the students will be interested in," she said.

As CUAB president, Hardy will be a representative of the Union, will preside over the selections of the Union Activity Board Committee heads and serve as the chairwoman of the Carolina Union Board of Directors. The board of directors consists of four faculty members and representatives from various

student organizations.

Hardy said another of her goals was to involve faculty and members of the University community in events going on in the Union. "I would like every month full of programs for faculty, students and Chapel Hill residents," she said.

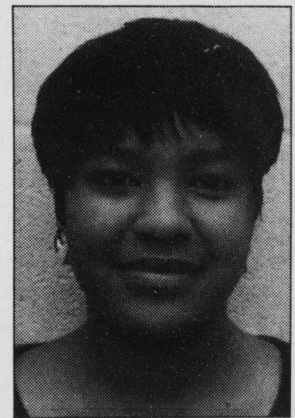
Angela Crisp, the current CUAB president, said that in the past year she had tried to maintain a high level of programming. "We have tried to continue giving students quality programming," she said. "The chairs and the committees make up the goals by working together."

CUAB committees are chosen by the CUAB president, and students can apply to be members.

"I encourage everyone to apply for committee chairs," Hardy said. "This will provide diversity next year."

Crisp said she was confident Hardy was a good choice for the presidency.

"Because of her experience in the past and her plans for the future, I feel



Maleikka Hardy confident in handing my keys over in May."

## University librarian inherits longer title, expanded responsibilities

By Tim Perkins  
Staff Writer

Joseph Hewitt, the newly named head of the Academic Affairs Libraries, said he would try to give new direction to the financially plagued UNC library system.

The Board of Trustees appointed Hewitt director of the Academic Affairs Libraries and associate provost for University Libraries, effective July 1. Hewitt has been serving as interim head librarian since January.

His new title is considerably longer than his predecessor's, and his duties also have been expanded.

Hewitt also will have general coordination responsibilities for the health sciences and law libraries.

Hewitt will take the place of Jim Govan, who retired last fall after serving as UNC's head librarian for 19 years.

Govan said the role of the libraries was to act as a mirror image of the University. The libraries must relate to every academic unit of the University and respond to each area's needs, he said.

Hewitt will not have authority over the health sciences and law libraries. He said his additional duties would include serving on some deans' councils.

"Getting a better budget (for the library system) is one of my priorities."

JOSEPH HEWITT  
ASSOCIATE PROVOST

Hewitt's enhanced role will make him more of a general advocate for the library system than a strict librarian, he said. He said he would be "more into the

## Commissioners' election process focus of forum

By Leah A. Campbell  
Assistant City Editor

A panel of local experts debated Thursday at a public forum whether Orange County Commissioners were fairly representing their constituents in northern Orange County under the current electoral system.

Citizens from the rural part of the county have complained that the board has not fairly represented them because of the large voting block in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union sponsored the forum. A five-member panel examined both proportional representation and district representation as alternatives to the at-large voting system.

Under the current system, voters choose between two partisan candidates for each of the five seats.

Rich Hammer, a northern Orange County activist and panelist, said he thought the problem had ideological roots.

"Residents from Chapel Hill and Carrboro are generally liberal-minded and thus do not represent the more rural conservative-minded residents," he said. "One only has to look at Jesse Helms to realize that there is a large conservative element in this state."

Proportional representation involves a ranking system in which each voter can choose a particular candidate. When the candidate with the least votes is declared defeated, the

voter's support is counted in favor of his second-place choice.

Moses Carey, chairman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, said he thought commissioners should examine the representation problem more closely before recommending a new system.

"I think we should get clear on what objectives a new system would achieve and who it would be most fair to," he said. "Under proportional representation, it really is not clear who the system will end up being more fair to."

But panelist Lee Mortimer, a founding member of Citizens' for Proportional Representation, said his electoral system would solve the rural and urban representation problem in Orange County.

"In this system, people don't compete with one another for votes," he said. "It assures that a minority representation would be there, while also ending straight-party ticket voting."

Last year's independent candidate for county commissioner, Mark Marcolpos, who also was a panelist, said he wanted a system that would end straight-party ticket voting.

"I just want to eliminate the straight party brick wall of unconscious voting," he said. "People use (straight-party voting) because they are generally uninformed about the candidates and where they stand."

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## School officials say passage of second bond improbable

By Leah Graham  
Staff Writer

Local and county school officials said Thursday that they doubted county residents would support a recently proposed \$20 million school bond to fund new elementary schools only three months after having approved a \$52 million school bond.

County Manager John Link Jr. sent a letter earlier this week to county commissioners asking them to support a \$20 million bond, with \$10 million designated for elementary schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro district.

Bob Bateman, a member of the Orange County School Board, said county residents would resent another bond.

"It's got to stop somewhere," he said. "I don't think Orange County is ready for another referendum right now."

Bateman said Link's proposal had come too soon after November's \$52 million bond to build two new schools in the county system and upgrade technology in the schools.

"I feel bad about burdening people who can't afford another tax increase," he said.

Bateman acknowledged that Orange County needed new elementary schools, but he said he thought it would be better to search for other solutions.

Mickey Ewell, a member of TaxWatch, a fiscally conservative watchdog group, said he wasn't surprised by the call for another bond.

"TaxWatch predicted this would happen," he said. "They really needed an

elementary school last year, but they only asked for (enough) money for the high schools (last year)."

Mary Babbitt-Cook, a member of the Orange County School Board, said instead of resorting to a bond, county officials should consider other options.

"The community deserves to have the county look at alternatives before going into another bond," she said.

Babbitt-Cook said year-round schools could solve some of the county's financial problems.

"Year-round schools work because they allow for 30 percent more use out of your school buildings," Cook said.

Babbitt-Cook said year-round schools helped students by giving them the option of having tutors when school was not in session.

"This allows for children not to fall behind," she said.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board Chairwoman Mary Bushnell said year-round schools would solve some of the county's financial problems.

"At any given time up to a third or a fourth of your student body is on a break of some sort so it increases the capacity for your school," she said.

"The children benefit because after nine weeks (of classes) they have a three-week period off," she said.

But Bushnell said year-round schools would not eliminate the need for new elementary schools.

"I don't think (year-round schools) would make us not need a new elementary school," she said. "We need elementary schools badly in our district."

ties," he said.

At a time when the libraries are suffering because of budget cuts, McCormick said the head of the library system needed to have authority to represent the fragmented library system.

"We think (the title) will give him the status to speak out for all the libraries," McCormick said.

Hewitt has worked at the University since 1975 as the associate librarian for technical services.

Chancellor Paul Hardin said he was pleased with the appointment. "I think Joe Hewitt is extremely well-qualified, and I'm pleased that we made a promotion from within."