

CAMPUS AND CITY

# Head Start officials to look into probe

By Bill Blocker  
Staff Writer

The federal director of Head Start programs in the Southeast said Chapel Hill Head Start officials should have notified federal authorities about a local investigation of abuse and neglect charges at the Elizabeth Seawell Elementary School Head Start program.

"Head Start is to report immediately allegations of abuse and neglect," said Sue Ann Brooks, regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administration for children and families in Atlanta.

"We follow up to make certain allegations are investigated," she said.

After allegations of abuse and neglect of Head Start children surfaced last fall, the day care became the subject of an investigation by the state Department of Human Resources and the Orange County Department of Social Services.

Brooks said she was surprised Chapel Hill Head Start officials had not followed protocol by notifying the regional office.

But Neil Pedersen, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools superintendent, said local Head Start director Janet Turchi indicated to him that she had informed federal authorities about the probe.

Turchi could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Pedersen said he hoped the investigation would not affect the program's federal funding and added that it was important to remember that the substantiated allegations of neglect only had been made against one teacher.

The teacher, Aloha Peyton, resigned

after accusations surfaced that she had slapped a child on the hand. A teacher's assistant was cited for letting a child out of her sight, and the program itself was cited for neglect by the Orange County Department of Social Services.

The county Department of Social Services will provide the local Head Start with recommendations based on the investigation's findings.

Pedersen said he was confident that the program would recover from the investigation.

"This is obviously an unfortunate incident which has occurred," he said. "I fully believe that once the recommendations have been made in writing, the district will be able to comply."

Pedersen pointed out that none of the allegations of abuse had been substantiated yet.

Although he acknowledged that one

child left the program, few parents have complained to Head Start officials, Pedersen said.

"To my knowledge, concerns have not been coming to the Head Start office in general," he said. "From our internal investigation, (slapping a child on the hand) seemed to be the most serious infraction."

"We're not personally aware of spanking or yanking of arms except for the slapping of the hand mentioned in the Department of Social Services report," he said.

Pedersen said Head Start officials held an open meeting for parents after the allegations surfaced and gave them information about the investigation.

Pedersen said the district fully intended to comply with all state regulations, but he added that the state had not been helpful.

"We've been frustrated with (the state's) investigation," he said. "We still haven't received any feedback from the state."

Christine Carroll, supervisor of the child abuse-neglect division of North Carolina's State Department, said the department hoped to conclude the investigation next week.

Carroll said that if allegations of abuse or neglect were substantiated against a day-care provider, the state was authorized to:

- revoke the day care's license,
- issue a special provisional license that could require a staff member to be terminated,
- give out a provisional license and require the day care to correct the problem within a certain number of days or
- issue a written warning or reprimand with a plan of corrective action.



## ACLU forum to consider gay civil rights issues

Gay and lesbian civil rights will be the topic of an American Civil Liberties Union forum Thursday night.

The forum, sponsored by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro chapter of the ACLU, will be 7:30 p.m. in the Community Church on Purefoy Road in Chapel Hill.

Chuck Stone, Walter Spearman professor of journalism, will moderate the three-member panel of legal experts.

The program will begin with a presentation by the ACLU's legal director William Simpson about the current legal status of gays in North Carolina. After the panel discussions, the forum will be opened to the audience.

Contact program director Sam Baron at 929-8454 or publicity director Jeffrey Starkweather at 967-7799 for further information.

## Apple Chill spring fair to feature local crafts

Springtime brings more than Carolina blue skies and flowers to Chapel Hill.

The annual Apple Chill street fair will be from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday on East Franklin Street.

The event, sponsored by the Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department, will feature arts, crafts, international foods and local band performances.

The rain date is April 25.

For information, contact Carol Walborn at 968-2784.

## Change your life: Learn to walk over hot coals

Fire walking is not just a special effect in the movies.

At the Heartwood Housing Community in Chapel Hill April 24, you can learn to walk on fire with expert Rachel Rocamora.

The fire-walking seminar, the first of its kind in the Triangle, will give participants the opportunity to walk on hot coals at 1,200 to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit without getting burned.

If you have any questions, contact Rocamora at 933-8014.

## Arcade extravaganza to benefit Charles House

Two hours of video games are sure to cure the end-of-the-semester blues.

Barrel of Fun game arcade will host a fund-raiser for the Charles House from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday. A portion of the proceeds will go to the nonprofit adult day-care center.

For a \$5 entry fee, you can play unlimited video games at the arcade. Tickets are available in advance and at the door. Space in the arcade is limited.

Barrel of Fun is located at 161 E. Franklin St. Direct any questions to Barrel of Fun at 929-7291.

## Local schools to kick off student artwork exhibit

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will host a systemwide art show beginning Monday at the school's administration building on Merritt Mill Road.

The Lincoln Center art exhibit, titled "Visions," will feature art from students in all of the system's schools.

On the opening day, community members can view the artwork from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

After Monday, the exhibit will be on display during Lincoln Center's regular office hours until May 1.

Direct questions to school spokeswoman Kim Hoke at 967-8211.

## Honor Court trials for Allen, Stiegler set for end of April

By Steve Robblec  
Assistant University Editor

The attorney general's office has set up Honor Court hearings for two conflicts stemming from a Student Congress budget hearing in February.

At the hearing, members of Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity disputed with congress members after former Rep. Darren Allen distributed a confidential B-GLAD attendance list.

Matt Stiegler, chairman of the Student Organized Movement Against Discrimination and former B-GLAD member, will appear before the Honor Court April 22.

Allen alleged that after he had passed around the attendance list, Stiegler told him, "I'm going to kick your ass."

Stiegler also has been arrested on criminal charges relating to the alleged threats. Stiegler's criminal trial will take place Thursday in Chapel Hill District Court. Stiegler could face up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine if convicted.

Stiegler said he was "definitely optimistic" about being acquitted in both trials, in part because, John Nieman, a

Chapel Hill lawyer agreed to take the case for free.

Despite facing two trials for the same crime, Stiegler said he did not think his case constituted double jeopardy.

"The University has to take care of its students, and the criminal court has to take care of its citizens," he said.

In a separate trial, set to be heard by the Honor Court April 26, Allen will face charges of obstructing the operation of a student group and misusing student property for distributing a confidential B-GLAD attendance list during congress' budget hearings.

Allen has said he distributed the list to Student Congress to show that B-GLAD did not have 54 dues-paying members, as group members had claimed in their budget request. B-GLAD members later proved that the group had 61 dues-paying members.

Allen, who claims the confidential B-GLAD list was left for him by an anonymous caller, said he still did not know who obtained the list for him.

"I'm wondering if we were set up (by B-GLAD)," Allen said. "They've been after the conservative members of congress for years."

## Chancellor recognizes students for excellence at awards ceremony

By Daniel Aldrich  
Staff Writer

When the basketball team gets together and presents team awards, fans and the media cluster around.

UNC's other unsung heroes got their own chance to shine at the annual Chancellor's Awards Ceremony Tuesday afternoon in Great Hall.

"In general, this ceremony recognizes outstanding achievement which might otherwise go unrecognized," said Dacia Toll, from Bethesda, Md., who received an award for being the junior woman of most outstanding character.

Stella Grabowski, assistant professor of art and a recipient of a Johnston Teaching Excellence Award, said the

Chancellor's Awards list ..... 4

awards capped off the year nicely.

About 60 faculty, students and staff received awards in the areas of academics, service and leadership. Tanner Award recipients and Undergraduate Teaching Award recipients officially were recognized at the ceremony.

Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton, who announced the winners' names along with Provost Richard McCormick and Student Body President Jim Copland, said the ceremony celebrated the University's purpose.

"We have tried to lift this ceremony to the highest level we can — it truly recognizes some of the great talent we have in the student body," he said.

## Three UNC students realize dream of opening for Carlin

By Elizabeth Oliver  
Staff Writer

Everyone loves a good laugh.

And when a renowned comedian like George Carlin takes the stage, it seems he would provide enough humor to satisfy any audience.

But when Carlin performs in Chapel Hill next week, three aspiring comedians will add a spark to the comedian's steady flame.

Scott Brown, Bryan Tucker and Jason Torchinsky, all UNC students, landed the opportunity Monday night to open for Carlin's performance by winning the "I Get to Open for George Carlin" comedy contest.

The contest, in which 11 comedians participated, was sponsored by the Carolina Union Activities Board and was judged by Student Body President Jim Copland, Assistant Vice Chancellor Archie Ervin and Omnibus Editor Jennifer Brett. Each contestant was judged on delivery and presentation, humor and audience response.

Brown, a senior philosophy and religion major from Lumberton, Va., is a member of the celebrated campus comedy troupe Selected Hilarity and has been doing stand-up comedy since his freshman year, in 1990.

"It's a very big chance for any aspiring comedian to do stand-up and meet George Carlin," Brown said.

Usually, Brown said, contests like Monday's attract folks who probably shouldn't seize the stage. But the contestants this time were different, he said.

"I was really impressed with a lot of the other comedians," Brown said. "It was a great shot all around."

Tucker, a senior broadcast journalism major from Richmond, Va., is the current Mr. UNC and also a member of Selected Hilarity. He began his career as a stand-up comic during his senior year in high school when a friend entered him in an amateur contest.

"I've always wanted to open for a major act, and George Carlin means a lot in the comedy world," Tucker said.

Winning the contest means getting "to goof off in front of a large group of people," he said.

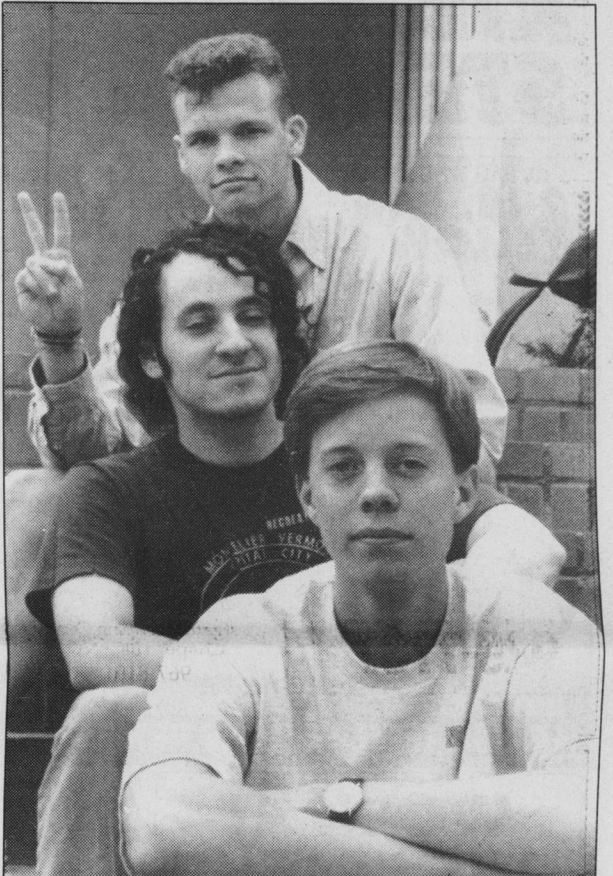
Both Brown and Tucker said they planned to continue their stint with Selected Hilarity.

"We're really gonna go for it, though we'll be poor for awhile," Brown said.

Tucker said he and Brown probably would continue on a part-time basis.

"I'm really excited about it," he said of next week's performance.

Torchinsky, a senior art history ma-



From bottom, Bryan Tucker, Jason Torchinsky and Scott Brown

tor from Greensboro, writes a weekly column in The Daily Tar Heel and is a member of the comedy group Van Gogh-Goghs. He began stand-up comedy in Atlanta during his freshman year at Emory.

"I think everyone was really funny and qualified," he said of the other contestants. "I just like doing stand-up, and it's an honor to open for George Carlin," the future, Torchinsky said he hoped to continue writing and performing comedy.

One contest drawback that both Torchinsky and Brown pointed out was the time limit.

"We had only three minutes, which I thought sucked," Torchinsky said.

Brown agreed.

"To be honest, three minutes is not enough time. I think we should get five minutes to tell some decent jokes," Brown said. "But, if Mr. Carlin says three minutes, that's what you get."

Carlin will perform at 8 p.m. on April 22 in Carmichael Auditorium. Tickets are available at the Union Box Office and cost \$10 for students and \$15 for nonstudents.

"If I meet George Carlin, I'll be sure to send him everybody's best," Torchinsky said.

from The Daily Tar Heel

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