

# Sangam Brings Together South Asian Students



A group village dance "Channe Ke Khet Mein," meaning Chickpea Field, was performed Sunday evening in Hill Hall. The performance was sponsored by Sangam, a student organization for natives of South Asian countries.

BY JONNELLE DAVIS  
STAFF WRITER

With UNC being such a large University, it can be difficult for students to find their niche.

Many decide to get involved in some of the various organizations to meet people with similar backgrounds and interests. One such organization is Sangam.

"I thought it was a worthwhile cause, something I wanted to explore," said Amish Sura, a senior from Raleigh who has been involved with Sangam for about three years. "It was an opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people my freshman year."

Sangam, a Hindi word that means "togetherness," has been at UNC since March 1987. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a group strictly for Indian Americans, but for all students native to any of the South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Nonnative students who wish to learn more about South Asian culture are also invited to join.

"Our purpose is to educate the UNC campus and community about South Asian culture and issues," said Sangam president Rupa Kothandapani, a senior from Mobile, Ala. "It will give students a chance to explore South Asia in a nonacademic fashion, especially since it's not taught in the academics."

Sangam now has about 110 paid members. Kothandapani predicts membership will double by April because of the number of freshmen interested in joining.

Mona Doshi, a senior from Charlotte, was a freshman when she joined. Like Sura, she wanted to meet people with similar backgrounds. She said many Indian Americans from her hometown attended UNC, and she heard about the organization through them.

"Personally, I've met a lot of people," Doshi said. "I got involved in the other

aspects of campus through Sangam. It's a great way to create awareness on campus because sometimes South Asians are neglected."

Kothandapani agrees that South Asians are neglected in the sea of other minorities on campus. For this reason, the group is working to raise money so a Hindi-Urdu language class can be added to the curriculum. Hindi is the official language of India and Urdu is the official language of Pakistan.

"We want to establish the basis for further studies," Kothandapani said.

The group also sponsors various lectures and seminars. Seminar topics cover different aspects of South Asian cultures, such as religion, philosophy and the Indian caste system, which will be discussed during one of Sangam's November meetings.

Recently Sangam held its Navaratri, or Nine Nights Celebration, an annual festival held in India. Members performed Indian dances and taught spectators how to do them. Indian foods were also served. Kothandapani said she was pleased with the turnout.

"There were about 200 people, and half were not South Asian," she said.

Sunday, Sangam held a celebration called Rang-e-Sangam, literally "the color of Sangam." The cultural extravaganza, filled with music, dance and song, displayed the talent of South Asians on campus. Through its many activities, Sangam hopes others on campus become more informed about South Asian culture.

"Not only does it help South Asians get to know one another, but it serves as an education purpose," Sura said.

Those interested in exploring South Asian culture can attend Sangam's bi-weekly meetings, held on an alternating schedule, at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Union 224 and at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Union 226.

# Physicians Help Highway Patrol Troopers Stay Fit

BY ALI BEASON  
STAFF WRITER

An associate professor of medicine at UNC and a board of UNC medical professors are working with the N.C. Highway Patrol's medical office to keep the state's officers fit.

Dr. Neil Bradford Perlman of UNC has been working as the medical director for N.C. Highway Patrol since January and serves as the patrol's physician. A group of UNC doctors and medical administrators form the Highway Patrol Advisory Board.

Jim Sexton, a lieutenant with the research and planning department of the Highway Patrol in Raleigh, said before the department obtained its own physician, troopers went to approved physicians across the state according to geographic region. Medical records from those exams were filed in a central office, he said.

In January, the department was centralized. Now exams, record keeping, health programs and research take place in the same office, Perlman said. "The health care of these officers is localized in one office, which provides a standard of care, centralizes the medical information and cuts down on costs," Perlman said.

The main concern of the medical director's office is helping the officers maintain an above average level of fitness, Perlman said. He said other concerns often took over the time the officers needed to spend on exercise.

Most beginning officers are in above average physical condition, Perlman said. In a treadmill test, most officers score between the 130th and 140th percentile in comparison with a table of norms, he said.

Beginning officers go through a six-month training period. During that time the trainees run, lift weights and do class work, Perlman said. The experience is comparable to boot camp, and of about 70 applicants, 30 or 40 go on to actually become officers, he said. "The officers start off above average in fitness and health and decline just as the general population."

Sexton said the aging process of the human body was the biggest contributor to the decline in physical fitness of officers.

Everyone who goes through officer's training has a preliminary exam in Sexton's Raleigh office. Sexton said officers in the area around Raleigh also went to Perlman

if they had work-related health problems after the preliminary exams.

If Perlman cannot treat the problem in his office or if he recommends additional medical treatment, doctors at UNC can help the officers. Perlman said if the officer was from another area of the state, he could recommend a doctor in that area.

Since the office has been centralized, a better back injury program and a better heart disease identification program have been implemented, Perlman said. He and a board of doctors and administrators from the University meet quarterly to discuss research, programs and policies for the State Troopers.

With the new system, it is easier for the department to determine where the officers are in terms of fitness level, he said.

Perlman said the centralization of the patrol's medical office contributes to officers continuing health. Recommendations for the frequency of standard medical exams are made according to the individual officer's physical condition, Perlman said.

Officers in good health have health exams every four years. On the average, most officers have physicals every other year, Perlman said. "If we have a 25-year-old that is very healthy, we will see him again in four years. If a 25-year-old has diabetes, then we will see him again next year."

The department has implemented a variety of programs for maintaining officers' health. Recently, the department gave the officers information on which fast food restaurants are the best choices in terms of nutritional value, Sexton said. The department also gives officers tests for night blindness and cardiac health.

Perlman said he wanted to prevent officers from developing diseases they were at risk for in the future. "One of my goals is to find people at risk for disease and treat them appropriately," Perlman said.

Perlman is also in charge of the health of officers who work for the Department of Motor Vehicles, Alcohol Law Enforcement, Butner Public Safety and the Capitol Police. These officers go through a less intense training program that includes classwork and physical requirements.

Perlman said he also reported to and consulted with government boards including the State Crime Commission, the Highway Patrol and their training programs to implement fitness programs.

## Campus Calendar

**MONDAY**  
11 a.m. Oktoberfest tickets will be sold in the Pit. Join us for a great night of German festivities, live music, food and beer! Sponsored by Delta Phi Alpha.  
12 p.m. United Nations 50th Anniversary will be celebrated with a flag-raising ceremony in Polk Place (South Building).  
Around the Circle: "Black Economics - Where do you spend your money?" will be held in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center.  
Peace Now! Is Middle East peace on the horizon? Join Israeli-born Palestinian Shibley Telhani for a lunch talk at Hillel, 210 W. Cameron Ave.  
3 p.m. Interested in New York Jobs in Advertising, Publishing, Public Relations, Legal or Social Science Research, Arts, etc.? Attend this information session in 210 Hanes Hall.  
Atlantic Recruiting Alliance information session for seniors interested in interviewing in New York in February, will be held in 210 Hanes Hall.

**WOLSLAGEL**  
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ern part of Orange County.  
The officer in charge of investigating the case was not available for comment

**Career Clinic:** Develop an action plan for selecting a major or choosing a career, in the University Counseling Center, 106 Nash Hall.  
**Dissertation/Thesis Support Group:** Handle the problems that block progress with specific strategies.  
4 p.m. Teaching Opportunities for Non-Education Majors Workshop for seniors and graduate students will be held in 209 Hanes Hall.  
**International Festival Committee** will meet to plan a celebration of UNC's diversity. Any student interested in becoming involved is invited.  
4:30 p.m. Environmental Education for Kids will meet in front of the Campus Y to go to the housing communities.  
6 p.m. DOW Elanco will hold a presentation open to doctorate Chemistry Majors in the Graduate Student lounge in Kenan Labs.  
Marine Action Coalition will meet in Union 213.  
6:30 p.m. Wallace Computer Services will hold a presentation open to all students in 210 Hanes Hall.  
7 p.m. Power Through Reading discussion on Cornel West's book, "Race Matters," will be held in the Black Cultural Center.  
K-MART will hold a presentation open to all interested students in 209 Hanes Hall.  
UNC Roller Rangers in-line skate club will have a street skate and roller blade clinic in the Pit.  
7:30 p.m. NORML will hold a general interest meeting in 111 Murphey.  
UNC Ballroom Dance Club will meet in the Women's Gym.  
Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies will meet to discuss "Resolved: A Higher Tobacco Tax Should Be Levied," on the 3rd floor of New West.  
8 p.m. B-GLAD will meet in Union 205.  
9 p.m. Old Well Sing with the Princeton Tigertones and UNC Clefhangers will occur.  
Academic Affairs Committee will meet in 452 Hamilton.

## FIRE

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in the lounge. According to police reports, there were pieces of burned fliers scattered about in the lobby outside the lounge.

The fire was already out when Chapel Hill firefighters reached the scene. Damage was reported at \$100, reports state. Kuncel said students in Morrison had not been as cooperative as those in Ehringhaus.

"A lot of people lingered around when they heard the alarm, and that worries me," Kuncel said. "Although there have been some false alarms or alarms set off by smoke detectors, students need to realize that dangerous fires can occur."

Chapel Hill Fire Department officials, University Police and officials from the State Bureau of Investigation are all looking into possible causes. Residence hall personnel across campus have been asked to be alert to any suspicious activity.

University Police said patrols were called in Saturday to provide increased security on campus. No new leads have been found, but police still are interviewing students connected in any way to the fires.

All lounges in Ehringhaus and Morrison are closed until further notice. Police are stationed outside the fifth-floor lounge in Ehringhaus to provide general aid.

"We're here to make sure no one goes into the restricted areas," University Police officer George Williams said. "We want to let students know we're looking out for them and we're here to protect them."

## SEXUAL ASSAULTS

FROM PAGE 1

nection is made at the dispatch center, officers are sent to the address associated with the phone number, Riddle said.

In this area, which has a 919 area code and a 914 campus exchange, he said false 911 emergency calls were frequent and expected.

"Certainly the enhanced 911 paid off in the situation on Roberson Street," he said.

Brown is being held in Orange County Jail on a secured \$100,000 bond, and his first appearance in court is 9 a.m. today in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough, reports state.

Both assailants' descriptions and the circumstances of their offenses will now be compared to other cases to see if they relate at all to any that are still open, Riddle said.

Although both cases involved a first-degree sex offense, he said many factors played in to the magistrate's decision to set

bond. Bond serves two purposes: to guarantee the individual will appear in court and to protect residents in the community, Riddle said.

As Pena has no known address, or one that is considered to be temporary, he poses a greater risk of not showing up in court.

"He has no local ties to the community, and the seriousness of the charge propelled his bond to the point that it was," Riddle said.

"Mr. Brown is well-known in the area. He has local ties to the area. That coupled with the seriousness of his crime put his bond at the level it was set."

Both assaults come on the heels of an attempted sexual assault Thursday at Brookstone Apartments on Homestead Road. The assailant in that case was described by the victim as a black male in his early 20s who was wearing a yellow shirt.

Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said Friday that there were no suspects in that case yet.

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