

'Amigos' Sends Students To Help in Latin America

BY LESLIE DUNAWAY
STAFF WRITER

Amigos de las Americas, literally "friends of the Americas," is a program that provides American students with the opportunity to live in Latin American communities and provide their residents with an education of public health and sanitation that they would otherwise go without.

Amigos, a nonprofit organization, has sent more than 17,500 volunteers to Latin America since 1965 and has reached into remote communities of 15 Latin American countries.

"The Amigos program is threefold: first, to provide leadership opportunities for young people; second, to promote improved public health in Latin American countries; and third, to facilitate better crosscultural exchange between the U.S. and these nations," said Justin Snyder, the correspondent volunteer coordinator for the Houston-based organization.

Volunteers in the program work on projects promoting community sanitation, human immunization, rabies vaccination or the teaching of housing construction.

"All of the projects offer public health education, but that education is hard to measure," Snyder said. "The service delivered is the tangible product that is left after the volunteers leave; but we teach these people how to utilize the knowledge we give them, or the facilities we build, to improve their lives."

Kelly Walton, a sophomore from Charlotte who has spent three summers in the program, said Amigos was unique because it was run entirely by young people, giving them responsibilities usually delegated to adults.

"It is hard to find opportunities that give the same amount of responsibility to young people as Amigos does," she said. She said she really experienced that responsibility when she spent last summer as a "route leader" in charge of three different communities.

"I lived in the city, but I traveled to each (of the communities) at least once a week, and to get to one I had to ride a bus for five hours, changing buses twice, take a ferry for another hour, and then ride an hour in a pickup truck," Walton said. "Although I was traveling alone, I never really felt threatened."

During Walton's second summer, she worked on a community sanitation project that incorporated a dental hygiene program. The aim of the program was to teach the children to brush their teeth and to make sure they would continue to brush even after the volunteers left.

"We tried to put the normally monotonous routine onto a more personal level, so every day at 5 o'clock all the children in the community would come down to the town square and we would brush our teeth together," Walton said.

Volunteers are either of high school or

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KELLY WALTON
UNC sophomore

college age, and all undergo an extensive training program designed to thoroughly prepare them for whatever they might encounter in their foreign country.

UNC senior Sanjay Pattani of Jacksonville, Fla., spent last summer in Ecuador working on a community sanitation project. Pattani said he felt well prepared for the experience.

"They adequately prepare you for the culture shock," he said. "By the time you get there, you know what to do and expect. Everything comes like second nature."

That preparation is provided by the program. Volunteers who live in "chapter" cities where Amigos has established training centers attend training sessions providing them with experiential learning. Those volunteers who do not live in chapter cities also receive adequate training through a correspondence program, Snyder said.

Walton said the program itself could be a learning experience. "When I began my first trip, I had great ideas about saving lives and helping people, but I didn't realize how much of a cultural exchange it would be," she said. "I learned more than I could ever give back."

That cultural learning comes about in part because of the way that the program is set up. Two to three volunteers work in one community and usually live with a host family. The volunteers work through sponsor agencies, and, together with the members of that community, they accomplish a particular project.

"Unlike other programs, the Amigos do not see other Americans except the one or two volunteers living in their community," Snyder said. "They become completely immersed in the culture."

Pattani said one of the biggest obstacles he had had to overcome was the language barrier. "We couldn't communicate with each other by words, but we were able to work together to build something," he said. He said the crosscultural exchange and the relationship he developed with his host family were rewarding.

"The family I lived with was so poor they couldn't even afford meat, but somehow they were able to call me on Christmas Eve," Pattani said. "I thought I would never hear from them again after I left. I can't explain how that made me feel, and I know I have no regrets about my time I spent in Ecuador."

Action! Town a Hotbed of Filmmakers' Interest

BY STACEY MEWBORN
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill is so convincing in its role as a college town that filmmakers nationwide are constantly attracted to it and to the University as a possible filming location for television series, commercials and feature films.

For instance, "Bad With Numbers," a comedy starring Tia Carrere of "Wayne's World," was filmed on campus in the fall. The feature film "Bandwagon" was also filmed in Chapel Hill, although not on campus. And the University recently approved the proposal for a remake of "The Nutty Professor," starring Eddie Murphy, although the site for this production has not been confirmed by the director. This is not to mention other low-budget films that have been shot in town.

A number of different reasons have been given for the interest filmmakers have shown in Chapel Hill.

"One thing that's been apparent is that there's almost a mythical image of Chapel Hill in Hollywood," said Bill Arnold, director of the N.C. Film Office in Raleigh, which promotes the state's booming film industry. He said producers often mentioned Chapel Hill as a possible location even if they had never been there before.

Arnold isn't sure where filmmakers' conception of Chapel Hill's photogenic

image originated. Possibilities include the popularity of UNC's basketball program, UNC's former radio, television and motion pictures department, or alumni who work in Hollywood.

"(The campus is) a continuing fascination," Arnold said. "The place is one of the most beautiful campuses, and the village of Chapel Hill is attractive physically," he said. "Filmmakers who see the campus for the first time are never disappointed."

Arnold said interest in the location exceeded actual production. Four to five years ago, the process to get a film proposal approved by the administration was more difficult. "There wasn't really an apparatus that made it work very well," Arnold said. "Film producers are in a hurry, and the University is usually very cautious." In the past, the process worked against filmmaking.

He said that in recent years the school had streamlined its approach to working with filmmakers and dealing with film proposals. Arnold commended the Division of University Relations and Director Pete Redpath, a former producer at ESPN. "She knows the needs of the University and of filmmakers," he said.

Clifton Metcalf, associate vice chancellor of university relations, said the University asked interested film companies to submit a written request, including dates, locations and equipment involved. They

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BILL ARNOLD

Director of N.C. Film Office in Raleigh

must also submit a copy of the script.

A five-member committee appointed by the chancellor reviews the proposal to give him recommendations, Metcalf said. The committee looks for how UNC would be presented based on the script. Other considerations are the level of disruption it would cause to campus and the interior and exterior locations needed, he said.

University relations confers with the transportation and parking, physical plant, and academic affairs departments for concerns about disruptions. Acceptance of a proposal could take from a few days to two or three weeks, Metcalf said.

"Our prime interest is the educational opportunities the production would provide to students and faculty," he said. For example, the producers of "The Nutty Professor" have agreed to make internships available, utilize some students in the film's

production, make class presentations and hold seminars, Metcalf said.

He added that the excitement of having a major film company with a star like Eddie Murphy was enticing. "It would add something to the spring," he said.

Although a secondary interest, another incentive for accepting movie requests is an effort to cooperate with the town and state to benefit economic development, Metcalf said. "The state government is promoting North Carolina as a site for films as an economic development program," he said.

Alton Chewning, a director of photography in Chapel Hill, said North Carolina had become increasingly popular due to the ease on restraints on filming, the varied geography and the climate. North Carolina is also a "right-to-work state," which means that film producing companies don't have to be unionized. This makes film production cheaper, Chewning said.

"There is an excellent technical pool here," he added. "There are lots of crafts people and good equipment accessibility," he added.

Chewning said the University was especially attractive to filmmakers because it hadn't been overworked. "UCLA has had so many films shot there. Chapel Hill hasn't been used as much because the administration has been reluctant to let people shoot here, especially during the school year."

Slug's Restaurant Sold to UNC Alumni

BY KELLY STEVENS
STAFF WRITER

When Ken and George Davis were growing up, their father took them to Slug's at the Pines, then known as The Pines, for \$1.95 cheese steaks. Now the three of them own the place and their specialty is prime rib, not sandwiches.

On Jan. 25, Ken, George and Dr. James Davis purchased the landmark restaurant on N.C. 54 near Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill. The Davises are the third set of owners of the steakhouse in its 45-year history.

Leroy and Agnes Merritt opened the restaurant in 1950 and named it The Pines. When the Merritts retired in 1975, the restaurant was sold to James "Slug" Claiborne. Slug's was the last of Claiborne's 14 restaurant holdings, which spanned North Carolina and South Carolina, to be

sold. George Davis said his family planned to continue "the long and deep tradition" started by the Merritts.

"For us, it's like a homecoming coming back to Chapel Hill," he said.

All three of the Davises are UNC graduates. Dr. James Davis was elected president of the student body in 1940 and was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Ken and George Davis have owned and operated restaurants in Atlanta and Athens, Ga. Dr. Davis is a surgeon in Durham and a former president of the American Medical Association.

"The Pines has been a North Carolina tradition for the last 45 years," Dr. Davis said. "We were anxious to encourage our sons to come back to Chapel Hill. All of us have deep roots in Chapel Hill and the University."

Slug's has remained a popular spot for three generations of UNC students and has made a name for itself around Chapel Hill as one of the best places to get a good steak meal.

But steak is not the only upscale item on the menu. Slug's also features escargot, veal Oscar and crepes Newburg. The prices for entrees range from about \$13 to \$20.

"Even though the prices may be relatively high for students' daily budgets, it's a great value considering the quality of the food," George Davis said.

Since taking over ownership of the restaurant, the Davises have upgraded the quality of the beef to certified Angus.

"We're gradually going to make changes, and continue the tradition of The Pines," Ken Davis said.

Among the planned changes are the addition of an oyster bar and an increase in the number of seafood dishes on the menu.

BAN

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Lamond said that the House would most likely pass a law outlawing concealed weapons but that tougher legislation was not likely to pass.

Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said, "I think the mood was generally hostile last session and even more hostile this session."

Threats for further gun-control measures are usually met with fierce opposition. "The NRA lobbies very hard, and people come in from outside of this area and argue about everything that has to do with gun control," said Rep. Anne Barnes, D-Orange.

Two cities in Illinois, Morton Groves Park and Oak Park, currently have a complete ban on firearms, Durham Town Council member Howard Clement said. Durham also has had a movement for stronger gun legislation within the past six months.

Proponents of the gun-control measure in Durham achieved reasonable success but were pre-empted from enacting an assault gun restriction by the federal government through the crime bill, Clement said. He also said the National Rifle Association was a strong force to be reckoned with.

"However, I don't think you should penalize the innocent people because of the wanton, reckless behavior of a few," he said. "The criminal will get a gun through the black market, so you're certainly not going to penalize the criminal."

Gist said this belief was one popular with manufacturers of firearms. "Not by any means are they (shootings) all crime-related, but they're suicides and accidents, and most of the guns that are on the streets have been stolen from people's houses," she said.

Gist said that she realized that the enactment of a ban could be seen as unconstitutional but that it was necessary to challenge these politics. "You do what's right in spite of the politics of the situation," she said. "You can't weigh the politics of all your actions or else you're frozen and you might as well not be there."

The overwhelming majority of people in this country have come out in support of gun control, Gist said. "I think that the government is a couple of steps behind the citizens with gun control," she said.

Drake said she promoted the idea of gun liability. In this case, guns would be licensed and the owner would be liable.

"If it got into someone's hands you'd be liable, and those who do have guns would

be more careful to either lock them up or to get rid of them," she said. "We're really protective of our cars, knowing we're liable for them, but not as protective of our guns."

The gun liability issue was introduced to the state legislature last year and received little response. "That idea is never going to go anywhere," Lamond said. "It'd raise every storeowner's and houseowner's insurance through the roof because it would be spread out to all of the taxpayers," he said. "It would be a tremendous increase."

Gist said she had a fear that people would think that by getting rid of guns, violence would disappear. "Guns are only symbolic of what is wrong in our society, and we can't ban the problem by getting rid of the symptoms," she said.

Clement said society needed to tackle other problems before violence could be solved effectively. "You have to curb the appetite of the criminal, and this is an economic and a social problem," he said. The solution is a difficult one but is necessary to address, Gist said.

The Chapel Hill Town Council has addressed the issue and is expected to discuss it further. Drake said she was really hopeful and thought that several members of the council supported stricter laws.

Black History Month Spotlight

Alvin Ailey

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Campus Calendar

TUESDAY

8 a.m. NBA Résumé Drop will be held until 3 p.m. in the University Career Services office, 211 Hanes Hall. Anyone interested for summer and full-time positions should drop one off!

NOON Summer Study Abroad information session will be held until 4 p.m. in Union 211/212.

3:30 p.m. Keeping Your Career Options Open, a workshop on developing a career plan especially for you, will be held in 209 Hanes.

Lesbian Support Group will meet in Nash Hall. 4 p.m. International Festival Committee will meet. Please check at the Union Desk for the room number.

"How Do I Stay on My Exercise Program?" will be held until 5:30 p.m. on the second floor (Health Education Conference room) in the Student Health Services building. Call 966-6562 to enroll. Sponsored by the Diabetes Support Group.

5:30 p.m. UNC NAACP Chapter will have Benjamin Chavis, former NAACP national executive director, speak in 104 Howell Hall.

UNC College Republicans will meet in 106 Gardner. Refreshments will be served.

CHSPA will meet in the Union. Quienes Somos? Talk about the country you are from and bring pictures or memorabilia. Check at the Union desk for the room number.

PASSES

FROM PAGE 1

been anxious about getting this process automated.

"I feel good that we've come this far. We'll support what we can to make it convenient for students," Black said.

In the past, athletic passes were distributed along with student data verification sheets at the beginning of the semester.

In 1994, the passes were printed without data verification sheets because all of the student information was already on the ONE Card, according to the registrar's office.

Scanners were not yet available, however, so ticket distributors could not simply scan the ONE Card at the distribution windows.

It became the CAA's job to distribute

the passes after they were printed, Rasmussen said.

"We went to residence halls and fraternities or sororities if they requested it, to hand out the cards," Rasmussen said. "We also set up a table at the Union for students to pick up the passes. The bad thing was that it was an extra trip students had to make. This will save trouble."

In order to organize an automated system, the athletic department wrote a computer program, Rasmussen said.

"The computer program determines if someone is registered. The registrar's office gives them the current information," Rasmussen said.

"The registrar's office's goal was to have all student information on one card. This was one phase of that."

"It's important to have information about expected graduation because there is a special distribution for seniors," Black said.

The new system is operational at the Smith Center, but the scanners have not yet been installed at Kenan Stadium.

"Our goal is to have the system in by next season," said Jeff Elliott, associate athletic director.

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