

# Freshmen Learn Ropes At C-TOPS Sessions

BY TRACI CURRIE  
STAFF WRITER

C-TOPS, UNC's freshman orientation program, is kicking off its 10th summer of operation this year.

Approximately 3200 freshmen, who are slated to come to UNC in the fall of 1995, will attend one of the 9 sessions offered this summer. The first session was held June 4-6. C-TOPS itself will run until mid-August. The last program is reserved for out-of-state students.

Students attending the program pay \$117 for meals, housing, and various programs designed to help them with the transition from high school to college.

John Adams, one of two orientation coordinators, said the programs offered during the summer were important to new students who were unfamiliar with UNC.

"(C-TOPS) presents programs about different aspects of UNC," he said.

Incoming freshmen learn about UNC Academic Services, University Housing, Carolina Dining Services and other services offered on campus.

Parents were also encouraged to attend. While at C-TOPS, students reside in Cobb Residence Hall and those parents who wished to participate in the program were housed in Joyner Residence Hall.

Most parents said they appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the school their child had chosen.

"It has been helpful and it addresses the concerns that parents have," said parent

Clark Murphy.

Elisha Cromer, mother of incoming freshman Melissa Cromer, agreed and said she thought C-TOPS had been very informative and had eased her apprehensions as much as her daughter's.

C-TOPS was not without its problems. Murphey noted that there was a need for more space. When he attended a special interest program Monday morning, he said he and his family wanted to attend three sessions, but they were unable to do so due to the lack of space.

"I think it's a well rounded program, but it's not lively enough," said Jason Hardin, an incoming freshman from High Point.

Director of Orientation Shirley Hunter, assisted by Anita Walton, directs the program. Adams and Kiely Flanigan act as orientation coordinators. Eighteen orientation leaders, selected in December, work more closely with the incoming freshman, offering tours, answering questions and easing fears about what the next year may hold. The orientation leaders have been training since January and in March attended a Regional Orientation Conference at Clemson University in South Carolina.

C-TOPS began in 1982 as an eight-day orientation program held before fall classes began in August. Over the years it has turned into a series of two and one-half day summer programs. Walton wrote in a short essay "the program continues to grow and develop, meeting even more of the needs of new students, their parents, orientation leaders and orientation professionals."



Participants in CTOPS "enjoy" lunch at Lenoir Hall during a break in their scheduled activities. Incoming freshmen are required to participate in a CTOPS session before beginning school in the fall.

# Town Seeks to Enact Stricter Gun Laws Than Rest of State

BY TANIA CALDERON  
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council sent a message to the North Carolina General Assembly about its strict stance on gun control and the right of a town to self govern without interference from state officials.

"We want to minimize the use and accessibility of guns in Chapel Hill. Having guns available will make the town less safe," said Chapel Hill Town Council member Jim Protzman. "The second issue deals with local authority of a town government to regulate what they feel is important. If we want to pass a resolution on gun control for example, we should be able to."



Council Member JIM PROTZMAN says more gun control will protect the community.

The council passed two resolutions June 26. The first asked the General Assembly to vote against any legislation that would lift the state's 100-year-old ban on carrying concealed weapons and the second asked that no state law be created that would preempt present and future local gun control laws which are stronger than state statutes. "The council from time to time comments on issues before the general assembly that they feel are of importance to the community," said Town Manager Cal Horton.

Both these possibilities arise from House Bill 90 which has been passed through the

House, was modified and passed by the Senate and is now back in the House.

"Prohibiting present and future local gun control laws from being stronger than state laws would not allow for the expression of local attitudes and go against the popular principle of increased local governmental control," said the lobby group North Carolinians for Gun Control in a statement.

One resolution which the council adopted states "The preemption of local gun control by the state contradicts the principle of increasing local control and ignores the fact that residents in urban areas are generally favorable toward gun control."

Town council members said they hoped to influence state legislation that might affect the power of town government.

One resolution states that the town has the strictest gun control laws in North Carolina, which reflects the attitudes of the majority of its citizens. According to current state statutes, a local ordinance can be stronger than state laws, but this may change in the future.

"We hope that people in the General Assembly will hear an additional voice and choose not to take action against us," said Chapel Hill Town Mayor Ken Broun. "We feel very strongly that lifting the concealed weapons ban is not a good idea."

Council sent the resolutions to State Representatives Joe Hackney, D-Orange; Anne Barnes, D-Orange, and State Senators Teena Little, R-Moore and Fred Hobbs, D-Orange. Rep. Joe Hackney said he voted against the bill before he received the resolutions from the town. Hackney said, however, that he did agree with many of the components of the resolutions.

# Land Donation Could Help Local Developer

Southern Village Could Pay Lower Impact Fees By Giving Site for New School

BY TANIA SILVIA CALDERON  
STAFF WRITER

The Town of Chapel Hill's dealings with developer D.R. Bryan have led the town to acquire some cut-rate property at bargain prices; but at the same time the town may have helped Bryan build an exceptionally appealing housing village by siting two schools and a park-and-ride lot within walking distance of the development.

"It is just a dream for us to have both an elementary school and a middle school within walking distance," said Carol Selkirk, a Southern Village sales representative. Bryan's decision to donate six acres to the county for a new elementary school might help him negotiate lower impact fees for the houses he plans to build in Southern Village.

"My understanding of the impact fee ordinance is that a developer can pay some or all of the impact fees by contributing land in lieu of cash," said Matthew Barton, a Save Our Schools steering committee member. The current impact fees would cost Bryan approximately \$1.5 million.

Bryan said in June that he would donate the land so the elementary school would be within the development. Because Grey Culbreth Middle School is located on the fringe on the development's northern property line, the elementary school would make

"We wanted to be good citizens and contribute to the well being of the town as well as our own community."

D.R. BRYAN  
Developer

the second school within walking distance for Southern Village's student population.

Although those six acres will be donated, in 1992 the town purchased 6.45 acres from Southern Village to build a park and ride lot. The county purchased this land although it owned at least 28 acres directly below it.

Although the proposed school lot is assessed by Orange County tax assessor at \$18,000 per acre, Penny Bryant, of the county's Land Services division said that land, although it is valued at one price for tax purposes, may be worth much more. She also said Southern Village bought that land in a 201.69 acre chunk, "so if they sell it, it will be worth much more than the sum of its parts."

Bryan proved this when in 1994 he sold Copperline Associates Partnership 19.27 acres of Southern Village property, that has been appraised by the county as worth \$405,300, for \$1.25 million, at an average of \$65,000 an acre.

At that rate, the six acres that Southern Village is donating, could have been sold for almost \$400,000. However, the 6.45 acres of land Bryan sold to the town for the park and ride lot, was sold for \$145,000.

The park and ride lot, whose only entrance is through Southern Village, sits directly next to the six acres Bryan is donating.

Local governments have paid \$145,000 for a little more than 12 acres of land worth \$800,000 that border Southern Village. Bryan didn't offer to donate the park and ride lot because he said, "The benefits were not great enough for us, but we did sell the land below market value."

When it came to the sight of the new school, however, Bryan decided to donate the land. "We wanted to be good citizens and contribute to the well being of the town as well as our own community."

The new elementary school, which will be located near the U.S. 15-501 and N.C. 54 corridor, will be approximately one mile from Frank Porter Graham Elementary School. "We anticipate about 400 children from the development," said Council Member Lee Pavao.

Bryan was upset by a recent decision by Orange County to raise impact fees from \$750 to \$1500 per new home within the Chapel Hill-Carboro school district. "We moaned and groaned about them because we didn't think they were fair," he said. Bryan said approximately 1000 units would be eligible for the fee.

According to Pavao, the primary purpose of these fees was to fund future school construction. Pavao also said the donation had not resulted in a waiver of those fees. "To date, the Commission has not waived any impact fees, but the possibility does exist," said Assistant County Manager Rod Visser.

Bryan had not formally requested that the county waive the impact fees.

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through the fireworks. One of the fireworks, a simple "rocket" which echoed a boom throughout the area, received the majority of attention because of screaming children until the finale.

The finale, which one spectator said was "unbelievable" included an incredible group of fireworks that erupted in various directions and created many colors. The crowd rose to its feet as the show ended and only smoke trails of the color-changing chrysanthemums, star shells and many other fireworks remained.

The display this year was put on by Zambelli Internationale Fireworks Co., who call themselves "The First Family of Fireworks." Both Chapel Hill and Carboro contributed to the cost of the event, but the majority is paid by private sponsors.

The crowd, estimated at 15,000, seemed to enjoy the entire show. They were particularly remarking on the fireworks saying "the quality was better."

Aside from the crackling and fizzling of the fireworks, the crowd was treated to the sounds of the Squirrel Nut Zippers and speeches from the UNC chancellor and the mayors of Chapel Hill and Carboro.

Hooker said the event "shows the intimate partnership between the University and both towns." "We are united to the town's well-being," Hooker said. "We are in the same boat together."

Both mayors also remarked on how the event showed a sense of community and partnership. "It's a great community celebration," said Chapel Hill Mayor Ken Broun. "It is symbolic of the cooperation between the three. This event says a lot about what we are about."

The fireworks at Kenan Stadium topped off a day of fun which began in Carboro with a parade and other fun activities. Many people attended both events making July Fourth a day-long celebration.

"We started in Carboro this morning and have ended here," said Deb Furman, a resident of Carboro. "We've had fun all day, and it was great for the kids."

# Black Employees, Town Argue Over 'Watch Dog' Structure

BY EMILY B. NEWELL  
STAFF WRITER

Black town employees who accused the town of discrimination said they felt they were making headway after meeting with town officials last week.

Town officials and members of the Black Public Works Association, who filed grievances against the town June 13, met to list what they said was a history of racial discrimination against town employees and to decide on a date for their next meeting.

Officials from both sides said they were pleased with the meeting, but thought more needed to be done before considering this matter closed. "The general atmosphere of the meeting was good," said Steve England, a member of the Black Public Works Association steering committee. "We came out of the meeting making some progress in that (Cal Horton) would meet with us, thus admitting that we have grounds for our accusations."

Town Manager Cal Horton wrote in a letter dated June 29 stating, "the meeting was productive."

In addition to the meeting on Wednesday, Horton met with each group member representing a different town department. Through these meetings, Horton developed a plan to put together a committee to listen to the various grievances.

Members from the BPWA said this plan had already been established in their meet-

ings by creating a "watch dog" network within their groups. Horton's plan would involve members of the town council instead of members of the BPWA, who said they needed to be involved. "We have already established a watch dog program; he (Horton) made it seem as though they came up with it," said Greg Thomas, a BPWA steering committee member.

England said he agreed that while the meeting had been productive, he resented the manner in which the town was handling the creation of the committee. "He has concocted his own watch dog group and made it up out of town council members; he took our idea and distorted into something that will not meet our needs," England said. "They will still be in power."

England said he would like to see the committee consist of employees to hear complaints of unjust acts. According to England the town was incapable of dealing with grievances fairly.

"Our interests are not at heart," he said. Last Friday Horton wrote the U.S. Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Labor asking them to review the town's policy in order to see if there was anything to change.

Attorney Ralph Karpinos said that the town must comply with North Carolina law. "We cannot participate in collective bargaining," he said.

The groups are scheduled to meet again Monday, July 10.

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