

Harper Works to Attract Businesses to Area

BY ALEX PODLOGAR
STAFF WRITER

Joel Harper stands firmly behind his belief that Chapel Hill is still a great place for luring businesses both large or small. He says the village aura and the University atmosphere only add to the area's attraction for starting new shops.

Although Harper, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, works to attract all types of business to the town, he said smaller businesses tend to put up shop in the area, especially on Franklin Street.

"Chapel Hill is still an exciting and attractive place for businesses to come," Harper said. "They come mainly because of the University in order to tap into the University market, examples include restaurants and the like."

The Chamber of Commerce has been under Harper's direction since he moved here from Eden three-and-a-half years ago.

"Coming to Chapel Hill was a chance to bring my family to a more cosmopolitan environment," he said.

The role of the Chamber can be defined in three areas, Harper said. It is involved in providing assistance to visitors and newcomers, networking within the town and providing services such as referral and educational programs to business members.

"Also, the Chamber represents the business community as well as the business

point of view to government," Harper said. "While those areas never change, each gets different emphasis depending on the environment, economy and community."

He said one of the major duties of the Chamber involved regional cooperation. The Chamber also is working closely with the Orange County Economic Development Commission, the Visitors Bureau and the Downtown Commission.

Among the Chamber's successes is the approval of the outdoor dining measure. But not all of the Chamber's projects reap success. The downtown trolley, an implementation of the "Streetscape" program, fell through after only a few months because of its high cost of operation.

"Streetscape" carries a \$5 million price tag," Harper said. "Right now, it's stalled until climate is such that we can push for that again."

Harper said he firmly believed in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area's ability to attract and maintain successful businesses, despite the recent departure of the popular Body Billboards. But successful businesses often grow and leave for more attractive and larger venues such as the Research Triangle, he said.

"Many businesses such as those dealing with software come here because of the close proximity to the Triangle," he said. "Many consultants choose to live here for the college atmosphere and the good quality of life."



Joel Harper is president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce. He says businesses are attracted here because of the University's atmosphere.

Grad Students Question Alcohol Policy Revision

STAFF REPORT

A new alcohol policy under debate may prevent graduate students from hosting social functions in their departments.

The new, stricter guidelines for hosting events where alcohol is served come in response to stricter social host liability laws. Under such laws, the host of a party at which alcohol is served can be held responsible for accidents and injury caused by an attendee under the influence.

In an open forum Friday afternoon, about 15 students discussed the implications of an updated alcohol policy. Seven were graduate students.

Michael Preston, a graduate student, said he worried that wine and cheese parties, which he said were common when hosting guest speakers, would be prohibited under the new policy. "We are concerned with wine and cheese," he said.

Kim Miller, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, said she thought some clarification of the social host liability laws needed to be made.

"If a department approves a social, and people bring their own alcohol, is social host liability still there?" she said. "There needs to be more clarification if someone wants to have something in their department."

While graduate students expressed concern that the policy was limiting their activity too much, one Chapel Hill resident said she thought the policy was too lenient.

Joanne West, a graduate of UNC, said she thought the provision which allowed students of age to drink in their dormitory rooms should be abolished and the campus should be made alcohol free. "I went to college when there was no alcohol on campus," she said. "We were fine. If we changed this (policy) to alcohol on campus, we'd have a different campus immediately."

But Frederic Schroeder, assistant vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, said the policy was consistent with state law, which allows those of age to drink in their primary and secondary residences.

The alcohol policy has not been updated since 1986. Former Chancellor Paul Hardin created a committee composed of faculty, students and staff to revise the policy in April. "This is an opportunity to grab by the horns the concerns enumerated in the self-study," said Student Body President Calvin Cunningham. "It is my desire through this policy to find a way to bring together concerns and meld a policy that is fair across the board and that employs the resources of the University in educational ways rather than punitive."

Best Buddies Pal Around With Area Kids

BY DANA WIND
STAFF WRITER

Two hours once every two weeks may not seem like an incredible amount of time, but to the mentally disabled children in the Best Buddies program, it can make a world of difference.

These two hours mark the time the children get to spend with their college-age buddies, with whom they can go get ice cream, see a movie or simply talk.

The Best Buddies program pairs mentally handicapped children with college students who become their "buddies" for at least one school year and sometimes for as long as they remain in the program.

The college buddies are required to phone their little buddies once a week and to spend two to three hours with them once every two weeks. Several group programs are planned each semester, and buddy pairs must attend one a month. The group programs include activities such as dances, bowling and movies.

The program was started in 1987, and, in 1989, became a registered non-profit

organization, with 180 chapters spread over 37 states, Canada and Greece.

UNC Chapter President Shannon Francis, a senior from Raleigh, stressed the importance of sticking with the program through the entire school year. Dropping out halfway through the year, she said, "really lets down the kids."

She said she knew from personal experience that Best Buddies can make a difference. She said Sholanda, her little buddy for the past two years, is always excited about their upcoming plans and calls her constantly for in advance just to talk and make sure she is still coming.

"I know that while they're with their buddies, college kids are usually thinking about what else they have to do that day," Francis said. "What many people don't realize is that a phone call from a big buddy can be the highlight of a child's week. It's good to know you mean so much to someone."

Francis said people in the program encountered some problems with their little buddies. Often, Francis said, a young buddy will act withdrawn, and sometimes they

may throw fits. She said this behavior usually subsided once the child realized their buddy was not a babysitter but a friend.

This year's program officers include Francis, program coordinators Emily Trexler and Sharon Womble, and membership coordinators Elizabeth Watt and Suzanne Jacobov.

To become a Best Buddy, prospective members must fill out an application form and be interviewed. Students can apply for one of two positions; they may either be a college buddy or an associate member, who aids in planning and transportation.

The chosen buddies are paired with a little buddy of the same sex based on similar interests. In previous years, the little buddies ranged from elementary school age to middle school age, but this year the majority of the little buddies will be in high school. All of the little buddies live in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area.

Weekly meetings called rap sessions will be held for the big buddies to discuss difficulties they may be having with their little buddies, and also, as Francis said, "to share the joys of being a Best Buddy."

UNC Named Third Best Buy In Latest U.S. News Rankings

STAFF REPORT

UNC moved up three notches from the sixth to the third best value among national universities in the annual best buy rankings from U.S. News and World Report, released Friday.

The magazine also ranked UNC 18th for discount price. The publication based the ranking on several factors, including the number of students receiving need-based aid and the ratio of quality to price.

The best sticker price rankings, which hit newsstands today, are based on two things: U.S. News' quality rankings from the magazine's "America's Best Colleges" issue released two weeks ago and the cost of out-of-state tuition.

Brigham Young University and the University of Florida held the top two spots ahead of UNC for best sticker price.

Chancellor Michael Hooker said the rankings were indicative of quality education, but he said the possible tuition increase, likely to be approved by the Board

of Trustees on Friday, would probably decrease UNC's rankings in the short term. "Next year we're not going to be third best buy if they approve the increase," he said.

Hooker said while the immediate increase could hurt rankings in the short term, improvements to UNC's quality reaped from the extra funds would be noted in the long term. "The negative impact is instant; the positive impact is not," he said.

Hooker said the trade off between quality and access considered in the tuition debate affected rankings in the future. "We can be a best buy if we have zero tuition and education that's hardly worth having," he said. "You don't want mediocre education that is free. You'd rather have a high quality education that is affordable."

The best buy ranking is the most recent in a series of annual ranking studies released by national publications. In August, Money Magazine ranked UNC the sixth best buy in the nation and the second best buy based on in-state tuition.

Campus Calendar

MONDAY

9:30 p.m. NURSING JOB FAIR will be held in Great Hall till 12 p.m.

3 p.m. ROBERT EVANS, Gordon Defries Distinguished Lecture series in Carolina Club in the George Watts Hill Alumni Center.

3:15 p.m. CAREER CLINIC in Nash Hall

4 p.m. UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES will sponsor a sales and marketing career panel in 210 Hanes Hall open to freshman through graduates.

STUDY ABROAD will have an information session on programs in Israel in 12 Caldwell Hall.

SPORTS MARKETING PANEL will be held in Old Carroll 02.

5 p.m. APC will have its first meeting in the lounge on the second floor of the Student Union.

SEAC/ASEED will have a potluck dinner in the Union 205.

7 p.m. SEAC will have a housing meeting at 7 p.m. in Union 212.

UNC STAR WARS CLUB will have a general interest meeting in Hamilton 100.

7:30 p.m. B-GLAD will meet in 209 Manning.

STUDENTS FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM will hold a business meeting followed by a short workshop in the basement of the Chapel of the Cross.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

ALPHA PHI ALPHA will sponsor its seventh annual Morrison Sleepout for the Homeless. Donations will be taken Monday in the pit from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

HILLEL: The program for the two-year celebration of the peace agreement which had been scheduled for Sunday has been postponed to a later date, TBA. More details later. For more information, contact the Hillel at 942-4057.

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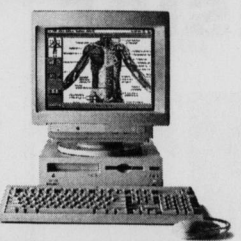
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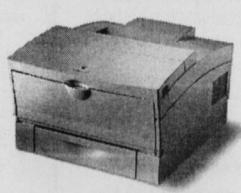
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