

Head Start Offers Education, Fun for Underprivileged Kids

BY KATE HARRISON
STAFF WRITER

Lots of hugs, lots of laughter, lots of songs and lots of discussion fill Head Start teacher Alethea Alston's classroom of three and four year-old children every morning. Alston, the 1995 National Head Start Teacher of the Year, takes care of 17 children in her classroom and forms an individual relationship with each child. "Many of the kids at Head Start come from large or extended families, so they come here to get the individual attention," Alston said. "They feel home here." The close relationships she forms with the kids do not end after they complete the program, Alston said. "I keep in touch with as many of them as possible," Alston said. That includes getting updates on new babies in the fam-

ily, helping the kids make the transition into kindergarten or elementary school and helping them with any problems they might have. Alston said she recently spoke with a former student who is now in third grade. "His mom wanted me to talk to him because he was having troubles with the driver of his school bus. It turned out that the problem was that the driver had been telling him to shut up. He told me, 'But Miss Alston, you said it's not okay to say 'shut up.''" Alston said with a laugh. "So, the program really stays with the kids." Head Start is a program designed for families with a child aged three or four who are at or below the federal poverty level. The program also encourages parents to get more involved with their children, further their education and find jobs, said Patsy Byrd, director of the Chapel Hill-

"I really enjoy working with the kids. When you're feeling down and go around kids, they lift you up."

TERESA FARRINGTON
Parent of Head Start Child

Carrboro Head Start program. The Chapel Hill-Carrboro program operates in eight classrooms at five sites and serves 105 families. It was the one of only five Head Starts in North Carolina to achieve accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, signifying that the program was meeting the highest education standards, Byrd

said. Teresa Farrington, whose three year-old son Torre is in Alston's class, said she tried to stay involved by staying in the classroom every Tuesday, going on field trips and attending parent meetings. "I really enjoy working with the kids," Farrington said. "When you're feeling down and go around kids, they lift you up." Many parents continue to stay involved with Head Start and find jobs such as classroom aids, office support and van drivers within the Head Start Program. Five out of the 25 employees at Head Start were previously involved in the program, Byrd said. Shannon Summerlin, a parent of a Head Start student, is currently training to be a substitute teacher and plans to stay and teach at Head Start after her three year-old son Jordan completes the program.

Summerlin first got involved in Head Start because she was tired of paying day care. Her five year-old son has completed the program, and her three year-old son is currently in Alston's class. "The program has been wonderful for us," she said. "My older son is doing excellent in kindergarten, and my younger son has had a big change in manners. He no longer throws tantrums, and he wakes me up every morning wanting to go to school." Farrington's son Torre has also adjusted well to Head Start. "The last day care he went to he cried every day," she said. "He had some bad behavior problems, and they didn't know how to deal with him. Miss Alston does, though. She knows you have to be firm and talk to him like he's a little grown-up. Now he comes home every day and tells me all the things he learned."

Rising Cost Delays Road Work

■ Carrboro aldermen were forced to hold plans for road improvements.

BY AMY CAPPIELLO
STAFF WRITER

Because of rising construction costs, a much needed road improvement project which was scheduled to begin in mid-1998 has been delayed. The project includes Old Fayetteville and Hillsborough roads. Construction for Old Fayetteville Road has been delayed for seven years, but construction on Hillsborough Road will begin as scheduled. The improvements will widen the two roads and also add curbs and gutter facilities. Dr. Gorman Gilbert, the Orange County at-large representative for the North Carolina Board of Transportation, told the Carrboro Board of Aldermen Tuesday night that the price tag for the project had jumped from \$2.1 dollars to \$4.1 million. "There is not enough money to do the project now, as scheduled," Gilbert said. "The current plan is to do the Hillsborough Road part first and Old Fayetteville Road at a later date." Increases in the cost of labor along with additional road length being added to the project caused the price increase, Gilbert said. Alderman Alex Zaffron raised concerns over how much the figure had increased. "I want to know why there is such a large discrepancy from one year ago," he said. Gilbert said the figures differed by so much because the initial \$2.1 million was an approximation. The new figure is refined with the additional road work added in, he said. Zaffron said he did not understand how delaying the project would solve the problem of lack of funds. He said he believed by delaying construction for seven years, costs would rise and taxpayers would ultimately pay more for the construction. The aldermen discussed possible ways to find money to pay for the project. Alderman Jay Bryan asked if funds could be reallocated from other projects, as was done when costs for the Interstate-40 expansion rose dramatically. Gilbert told the aldermen they could look into obtaining funds from the Metropolitan Parking Organization, which includes cities in the Triangle area. "You can take the MPO attributable funds and shift them around to supplement other money," he said. Alderman Hank Anderson said that after this setback in construction, he had no idea whether he could ever put his trust in the Department of Transportation again. "It's getting to be so bad," Anderson said. "We have voters here, we pay our taxes, and I'm just getting sick of it."



Alderman ALEX ZAFFRON said he did not understand the rise in cost for the project.

SAFE Escort Placed Under University Police

BY KATIE TYSON
STAFF WRITER

Despite a bureaucratic shift, a campus service that helps protect women leaving libraries late at night will not be expanded to include men. SAFE Escort, which uses golf carts to transport women leaving libraries after dark, came under University Police auspices at a campus safety meeting Wednesday. However, officials at that meeting said expanding the program to include men would be too dangerous. "Two females escorting two unknown males could be risky," said Mary Sechrist, assistant University counsel. Carmon said she would serve as the primary liaison between SAFE Escort and the police department. She said she wanted to analyze the operations of SAFE Escort and see if any improvements could be made.

"The only difference SAFE Escort will have is that they are coming under University Police," said Crime Prevention Officer Angela Carmon. "They will have more input from the police department." Carmon said she planned to jump into her efforts with SAFE Escort immediately by spending an evening with those who worked for the program. "I want to spend an evening and ride a shift with them to see how things are going," Carmon said. In addition to changes with SAFE Escort, the University is now in the process of installing new safety call boxes throughout campus. The installation of 50 new call boxes is now under way, said Herbert Paul, director of the UNC physical plant. These boxes have already been paid for and will be used to add and replace existing fixtures. Thirty of the boxes will replace existing fixtures and 20 new boxes will be added. Carmon said the new boxes would improve campus safety substantially. She said

the new boxes would be taller, more visible and their trademark blue lights would be brighter than the present units. "They really illuminate around the emergency call box," Carmon said. Carmon said only two of the boxes have been installed. The two boxes are located off of Rosemary Street near an employee parking area. Despite some progress, the installation process will be slow and sporadic because of wiring problems and construction schedules of the manufacturer, Paul said. "The installation will be between two and four a month," he said. Paul said only six had been delivered from the manufacturer and two were scheduled to come in this week. He said each unit would require the installation of a new power source and that the current light source would not be able to run the new units. Student Congress Representative-Elect for Dist. 16 Josh Cohen-Peyrot said security measures should be heightened in the wake of two attacks on University students this weekend. As a future representative of the Morrison district, Cohen-Peyrot said he wanted to improve security near Morrison and area walkways. He said some residents on South Campus had expressed concerns over the current conditions.

STRAW
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show that they are a voice to be reckoned with," Granato said. "The straw poll outcomes are going to be a powerful voice across the state to the candidates." The straw poll also would be a good chance to show the voters that students are not apathetic, Granato said. "We should not wait until the General Assembly threatens to cut our budget — we should have a voice now." Julie Gasperini, Student Congress finance committee chairwoman and a member of Students for Vinroot, agreed. "I think it's a good promotion to get students involved," Gasperini said. "It's sad to see student apathy because it's our future. I think the straw poll is really good for promoting awareness." Granato said the straw poll should capture a lot of interest since the Republican primary is on the horizon, but that "it is extremely important to have a large turnout to combat the college student apathy stereotype." "It is very important for students to

see what's going on." It is important that students have their VOTE ONE Card with them when they vote, said Dana Simpson, co-chairman of Students for Vinroot. Simpson said that the election would be bipartisan, and that results would be tallied by independent observers. Simpson also said some of the purposes of the straw poll were to target younger voters and to find out where they stand so that the candidates could get an idea of how to focus their energies. Through the straw poll, Simpson said he hoped to verify that Vinroot, a University alumnum, still had strong UNC student support. Granato said that both Democrats and Republicans could vote in the straw poll, and that candidates from both parties would be on the ballot.

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Campus Calendar

THURSDAY
10-2 p.m. THE COALITION FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE believes your education is important. Come and educate yourself on access to education, affirmative action and workers' and immigrants' rights. Speak out in the Pit, forum at 7 p.m. in 209 Manning Hall with Gerald Home (BCC), Eleanor Kinnaid, Aaron Nelson and more!

3 p.m. BETTY ADCOCK will read from her poetry in Greenlaw Library, 5th floor.
4:30-5:30 p.m. BLACK UNDERGRADUATE-GRADUATE MIXER planning meeting in the BCC.
5:00 p.m. INTERNSHIP INTERVIEWING SKILLS workshop in 306 Hanes Hall. Open to all interested freshmen, sophomores and juniors.
5:30 p.m. VIETNAMESE STUDENTS ASSOC. general body meeting in Union 205. All are welcome.
6:30 p.m. "FOUR ROOMS" presented by CUAB in Union Auditorium. Also showing at 9 p.m. Admission \$2.
THE UNC-CH LIVING WELL PROGRAM invites you to attend their Open House until 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor lobby of Ehringhaus Residence Hall.
7 p.m. STUDENT N.C. ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS: Learn job-seeking skills in the education field in Peabody Hall. Officer positions open, everyone invited. Call 933-2896 for further details.
SARR meets in the basement of the Campus Y.
ITEMS OF INTEREST
THE HEALTH SCIENCES LIVING & LEARNING PROGRAM is accepting applications for participation in the program next year. Applications are due Mon, March 18 and can be picked up in Carmichael Residence Hall.

For the Record
Tuesday's article "New Student Attorney General Wants Diverse Staff" incorrectly spelled newly selected Student Attorney General David Huneycutt's name. The story also should have identified Huneycutt as a junior student from Greensboro.
In Wednesday's article, "Taiwanese Americans Stage Loud Protest," the majority of student protesters should have been identified as Taiwanese, not American citizens.
The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

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