

# The Daily Tar Heel

**INSIDE**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
DECEMBER 4, 1996



**What do you think?**

Students will play a part in the selection of the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Page 2



**Fight for life**

State as well as local agencies are fighting an uphill battle to find a cure for AIDS. Page 9



**Smoking guns**

The FDA and the tobacco industry continue their slow-moving legal battle. Page 4

**Today's Weather**

**Increasing clouds; low 50s.**  
Thursday: Cloudy; mid 50s.

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## Students begin hunt for apartments

BY JIM MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

December marks the beginning of the apartment crunch, leaving students scrambling to find accommodations for next semester. But with the search comes added responsibilities of honoring leases.

Students can look at apartments throughout the Chapel Hill area, but they might find themselves on a waiting list instead because turnover is low.

Christy Rexroad, manager of Carolina Apartments on the N.C. 54 Bypass, said there were no vacancies in any of her apartments, and the wait list was already growing.

"Usually we are 100 percent full," Rexroad said. "We've already begun the wait list for May-August 1997."

Julie Brooks, apartment manager at Townhouse Apartments on

Hillsborough Street, said her wait list started today, and she has already received hundreds of calls.

"I'm passing out the applications (today) to get on the waitlist," Brooks said. "We are already full until May '97."

Signing more than one wait list can cause problems for students because often it is specified that people who sign must rent the apartment if they clear the wait list.

And being on a wait list doesn't guarantee a student an apartment. Carolyn Baucom, managing partner for Baucom Realty, said there was usually not much turnover in apartments during December.

"Very seldom are there openings that I have in December," Baucom said. "I would say in student rentals there is not much student turnover in apartments because most don't leave until May."

Almost without exception, apartments require residents to sign a lease before moving in, which sometimes hinders students' moves.

UNC Student Legal Services Director Dottie Bernholz said students have to realize what type of agreement they are committing to when they sign a lease.

"You can have a written or oral lease," Bernholz said. "Once you have agreed to the terms, you have to carry them out."

She said SLS was committed to aiding students through their landlord problems.

"We represent all students in landlord-tenant disputes," Bernholz said. "We represent all students at no charge because they've already paid for them (in student fees)."

Some area apartments have provisions in case a student has to break a lease because of compelling reasons like dropping out or studying abroad.

Bernholz said these provisions greatly aid the student when the need arises. "Many businesses have a lease which contains a provision called early termination," she said.

"Students can pay liquidated damages, which in some instances equals two months rent."

Baucom said almost all of her rentals were to students, and she almost never has problems with students breaking their lease. She said students do have to be sure they know their responsibilities.

"When students sign a lease, they need to realize they are obligating themselves to pay that money," Baucom said. "(Students) can't just decide to move because they like another apartment better."

## AIDS epidemic changes lifestyles, culture

■ AIDS has helped to promote discussion about sexual health, officials say.

BY ERICA BESHEARS  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

More and more UNC students think twice when making decisions regarding their sexual behavior, something they attribute to the threat of AIDS.

"(AIDS) definitely scares the hell out of me," said one UNC junior who asked that his name not be used.

He said that the possibility of HIV infection from irresponsible behavior lurked in the back of his mind at parties or bars. "AIDS has made me a lot more aware about what's going on and has made me re-evaluate the positions I'm put in," he said.

A UNC freshman said AIDS had not changed his ideas about sex, but he said

the disease had made him more responsible. "It wouldn't affect whether or not I'd have sex, but it would affect whether I would use a condom," he said.

He said he considered himself well-educated about sexual health and AIDS. He said he first started learning about AIDS and sex education in the sixth grade. "When I was younger (than that), I heard about Ryan White and other AIDS cases, but I hadn't really thought about it much."

In the last 10 years to 15 years, as knowledge of AIDS has increased with the number of cases, the disease has made people more aware of the consequences of their actions, health officials said.

"I think that before (people) are sexually active, they're learning more about their partners, they're learning more about themselves," said De Vetta Holman, assistant director of health education at Student Health Service.

"It has certainly made people more cautious about sex," said Sharon Broom,

director of public relations for the American Social Health Association.

Holman has worked with health education for 11 years and has watched attitudes toward the disease and sexual responsibility change.

"I think people are protecting themselves more," Holman said. "More information is getting out. It's not such a taboo issue anymore."

When she first started working there, many people considered AIDS a disease that struck white, homosexual men. She said that now people understood who and how AIDS could strike. "When it hits home, we open our eyes more."

The growing number of students who request confidential AIDS tests at SHS reflects this greater understanding, she said. SHS has offered confidential testing since 1989 and hired Christian Draven Godwin as HIV coordinator in 1995.

Godwin said she and a recently hired assistant see 25 students to 30 students in an average week. Most of the students

come in for testing, but others come seeking education, she said.

While AIDS has heightened awareness in some ways, Broom said other things haven't changed. "(AIDS) seems to have made people less concerned about other sexually transmitted diseases," she said. "One thing we get asked a lot (is), 'In light of the fact that AIDS is a part of our society, why are people still getting STDs?'"

"Human behavior is very complicated."

And while health educators have tried to push condom use rather than hormonal contraceptives to emphasize disease prevention, Broom said people still regarded pregnancy as the greater evil.

"Many people have remained more focused on pregnancy prevention. It's been a real challenge to get them to review their contraception. (To prevent HIV infection), you need to use a condom."

Beyond statistics and medical details, the AIDS epidemic has become a part of American culture.

Godwin said that because AIDS is a fatal disease, it has furthered discussion about sexual health more than other sexu-

SEE EDUCATION, PAGE 9

### RIISING TO THE OCCASION



Workers place a Christmas tree atop the parking deck on East Rosemary Street. The tree will be decorated and lit sometime this week.

DTH/JON GARDINER

## Holiday expectations can bring depression

BY JULIA WOOD  
STAFF WRITER

The holidays, which should be one of the happiest times of the year, can actually be a time of depression and anxiety.

Dr. Wil Edgerton, retired faculty member of the Department of Psychiatry, said the holidays can be a stressful time for many reasons.

"A lot of it is related to expectations," he said. "Our culture makes us expect great times during the holidays, and sometimes it doesn't measure up."

Dr. Linda Nicholas, a psychiatrist at UNC Hospitals, said one major cause of depression during the holidays was what are called "anniversary reactions," which

occur when a loved one has recently died.

"For people who have recently lost a loved one, the holidays can be a difficult time," Nicholas said. "This is partly because the holidays are a time when we are supposed to be with the people we love, and there is a disappointment in that respect."

She said one remedy for those experiencing anniversary reactions is to keep busy.

"What we suggest for our patients to do is to try to make plans to keep them busy during the holidays," Nicholas said. "We encourage them to do things they

SEE HOLIDAY BLUES, PAGE 8



DTH/JENIFER GUTHRIE

Dancers from Sangam, a Southeast Asian student group, perform at Memorial Hall on Tuesday evening in honor of World AIDS Week at the One World, One Hope Extravaganza.

## Local groups promote AIDS awareness

BY MEEGAN P. SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Orange County has become the stage for a continued battle against AIDS ignorance.

Several groups have brought the fight to the local arena by providing their services and facilities to people interested in promoting AIDS awareness and assisting those diagnosed with the disease.

As part of Aids Awareness Week, several organizations have reinforced their involvement in an effort to help people diagnosed with the disease.

A study released in a statewide report Monday revealed that children were becoming more likely to contract the disease.

UNC Hospitals officials have re-

sponded to this trend in order to accommodate for the increased needs of children. Bill Pegg, a teacher at the UNC Hospital School, said children from across the state are treated at the hospital's facilities.

"We treat patients in the hospital who have AIDS pretty much the same way that we treat everybody," Pegg said.

The children admitted range from 3 years old to 21 years old. "Generally, (their contraction) is from transfusions or from abuse," he said.

While the children are under medical care, the hospital also offers counseling and support to the parents and teachers.

"We help teachers deal with (children's) illness. With the social implications and concerns that AIDS has, we certainly don't talk directly about the

child's illness without the parent's permission, which is legally our responsibility," Pegg said.

"We urge schools to treat all kids with universal precautions (so that the disease) is not as threatening," he said.

There are various services offered throughout the Triangle to children and adults living with AIDS. The Piedmont HIV Health Care Consortium in Durham is one of 15 programs in North Carolina that allocates federal funds to direct services, case management and transportation for AIDS patients. Following their diagnoses, patients are referred to one of many organizations designed to provide both counseling and medical treatment.

The Carrboro Aids Home, located on

SEE LOCAL AIDS, PAGE 9

## UNC's black student graduation rate 3rd in public universities

■ Minority counseling increases graduation rates, some black students say.

BY TERESA KILLIAN  
STAFF WRITER

UNC's graduation rate for black students ranks third among public universities, despite a recent decline in the retention rate, according to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

Sixty-four percent of black students who entered UNC between 1988 and 1989 graduated within six years. This rate still falls short of the 86 percent graduation rate of white students.

Between 1991 and 1993, the rate of

juniors who returned as seniors decreased by 6.3 percent. Associate Dean Harold Woodard, who works in the Office of Student Counseling, said one reason some black students could not graduate in six years was money.

"A number of the students who have not returned are academically eligible to return," Woodard said. "A major reason that they are not seems to be economic. Basically, they run out of funds and have to drop out and work."

UNC trails the 84 percent graduation rate for blacks at the University of Virginia and 67 percent at the University of Michigan. According to The New York Times, officials at UVA. cited peer advisers, faculty mentors and a parents' advisory association as contributing factors in the successful retention of black stu-

dents. Black students at UNC say the University provides a positive climate for them. Many of them credit the programs offered by the Office of Student Counseling.

"I know when I was a freshman, I was assigned a minority adviser (through an OSC program)," said Tamera Smith, a junior from Charlotte. "She was available for me if I had any problems. She was helpful."

Kamal Wallace, a junior journalism major from Lexington, said minority organizations at UNC were influential in his college experience.

"The University provides a good climate for black students with organizations such as the Black Student Movement and the Carolina Association of

Black Journalists," Wallace said. "They help to point you in the right path for graduation."

Recent statistics suggest that these measures are effective. The 94.4 percent retention rate for freshman at UNC in 1995 was the same for both black and white students for the first time. Woodard said he thought the minority-advising program might have contributed to this statistic.

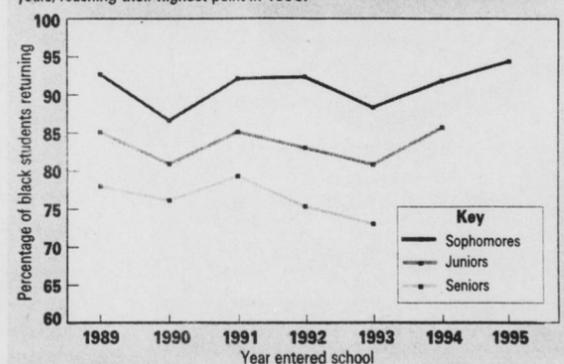
"I think the minority-advising program has become institutionalized," Woodard said. "We have fine-tuned it enough so it can claim some credit for that figure. My overall take on this is, first of all, you have to credit the students."

In addition to the minority advising

SEE GRADUATION RATE, PAGE 2

### Keep coming back for more

Retention rates for black students at UNC have increased during the past few years, reaching their highest point in 1995.



SOURCE: OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

DTH/ELYSE ALLEY AND JESSICA GOUDIN

*Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.*

Larry Wilde