

# Proposal Aims to Attract, Assist Child-Care Workers

**Gov. Jim Hunt's plan would provide health-care benefits and bonuses for workers continuing their education.**

By ELIZABETH PRESTWOOD  
Staff Writer

Child-care workers now have an extra incentive to provide the best possible care for N.C. children.

Gov. Jim Hunt has announced a new initiative, N.C. Cares, which provides health-care benefits and salary bonuses for child-care workers who wish to continue their education and stay in the workforce.

The program is expanding on two current child-care programs under Smart Start, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Health Insurance Program and Child Care WAGES.

In North Carolina, approximately one-third of child-care workers quit their jobs every year because of low wages and few benefits. "The purpose of the program is to attract and keep good child-care workers in our child-care centers by providing initiatives for them to stay," said Sean Walsh, press correspondent for Gov. Jim Hunt.

Walsh said the lack of support for child-care programs had been a problem for years, and the need for a higher quality of care prompted the initiative. "There's always more things that can be done, and this is definitely a step in the right direction," Walsh said.

Hunt's officials were unable to give an estimated cost of the program.

Research indicates that a relationship exists between the education level of a child-care worker and the child's success intellectually and socially.

Howard Maniloff, clinical associate professor of educational leadership, said

the initiative was a good program to attract more and better health-care employees to work with children.

"The early years, as we now know, are a critical part of a child's development, and it makes sense to get the best workers to care for them and if you don't pay them well you won't get the good workers," Maniloff said.

Maniloff said he was glad the workers were finally getting paid better for the difficult job that they do. "Right on," Maniloff said. "We will reap the awards with healthier and happier children."

Sen. Eleanor Kinnaird, D-Orange, introduced a bill last year that provided \$100,000 toward the Day Care Services Association building, and said she is a firm supporter of the initiative. She said, "It will mean we're attracting top-quality teachers to our child-care programs."

The State & National Editors can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

# To Expand IFC, Town Alters Plan

By KELLE SCHREINER  
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council once again decided Monday to reject a state plan for transportation in order to consider the expansion of the Inter-Faith Council shelter.

Rita Gray, a member of the IFC Board of Directors, went before the council to seek a modified Thoroughfare Plan that would remove the Pittsboro Road extension from the state's current plan.

She also wanted to acquire a 25-year, long-term lease for both the Old Municipal Building, where the IFC kitchen and shelter are currently located, and the property west of the building.

"We have enjoyed a public-private partnership with the town," she said. "We hope to continue this."

Town Manager Cal Horton said Monday that he supported a change in the Thoroughfare Plan, which would make Pittsboro and Columbia streets a one-way pair of roads.

This traffic route would run through Walker's Funeral Home, Granville Towers and the Phi Gamma Delta fra-

ternity house. The Town Council has already vetoed the state's plan.

"I proposed to do away with (the Pittsboro extension) years ago," Horton said.

The estimated \$1 million IFC addition would combine the shelter and its administrative offices into one center.

The IFC must relocate by the spring of 2000 because the United Church of Christ recently bought the land on Wilson Street, which the IFC is currently leasing. "We need to move and we have to come up with what we hope you, the council, might find acceptable," Gray said.

Council member Joe Capowski said he was not immediately approving or disapproving of the petition, but that he was concerned with financial arrangements of the expansion.

"I would like the town staff to work



Chapel Hill Town Council Member Joe Capowski said he would not immediately approve the expansion.

with the IFC and to the best of its ability answer the financial questions," he said.

Capowski said Monday that he wanted the town staff to determine the market value of the existing building and council member Julie McClintock said she would like the council to take a closer look at the responsibility of IFC's maintenance costs, which the board currently assumes.

"I would like to know what the current expenses are," McClintock said.

Gray said the convenient location of the addition would have many advantages, such as easing overcrowding and providing more social services.

"We realize we are asking for something different than what we currently have," she said.

She said the town of Chapel Hill had always been supportive of the all of the clients, employees and 1,000 volunteers that are involved with the IFC Community House.

"The town's support has strengthened relationships and provide services to low income people."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

# Carrboro to Consider New Technology

**A fiberoptic cable would allow for improved accuracy and communication among three downtown buildings.**

By ASHLE GREEN  
Staff Writer

The days when Carrboro officials hustle messages on foot from building to building might be numbered if the Carrboro Board of Aldermen decides to fund a fiberoptic "loop" to keep itself connected.

By electronically linking three main downtown buildings with the \$29,000 system, the fiberoptic cable would improve communication and accuracy, said Jake Jacobstein of Network Address Incorporated, the Maryland company that proposed the project.

The system would also allow for bet-

ter garbage routes, quicker fire and police response time, broader Internet accessibility and even more town jobs, Jacobstein said.

Alderman Allen Spalt also said the high-tech hook-up could make some town services much more efficient.

"Public Works could easily plug in all garbage pickups, for example, and the updated computer system would be able to spit out a more efficient route," he said. "What we think is good now might not end up being the best."

In addition, the system would allow for rapid transformation of extremely large financial and information files, as well as help town employees address residential concerns more accurately, such as questions concerning real estate zoning for example.

At the board meeting March 2, several aspects of the plan were questioned and critiqued, including employing workers to handle the system and

*"We are a small town with a relatively small budget. We have to be cautious."*

ALLEN SPALT  
Carrboro Alderman

financing the project.

Jacobstein said that if the town approved the project, a position would open up for a network manager who would carry out or coordinate network training.

The town would then sign a contract with a computer "hot shot" who would help work out initial quirks in the system, but officials said their person would be too expensive to hire permanently.

Jacobstein assured the board March 2 that the electronic loop would not result

in any Carrboro employment losses or dismissals. "This system is not a mechanization that would put people out of work," Spalt said.

Town Manager Robert Morgan is expected to present a budget proposal for next year to the board by May. The board should adopt a finalized budget by June.

Spalt said he predicted few problems with fitting the fiberoptic plan into the town's budget, especially considering the strength of the economy. But he did not completely rule out a tax increase. "We are a small town with a relatively small budget. We have to be cautious."

But if the town does construct the loop, it could eventually be expanded to a network with Carrboro schools, state and national government and even countries around the world.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

## Campus Calendar

Tuesday

3:30 p.m. - "Schoolgirls: Women, Girls and Non-Sexist Education," a discussion led by students Jessica Fields and Jenni Reklis, will be held in the Bull's Head Bookshop.

5 p.m. - UNC-CH Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will have its worship service in Union 208.

5 p.m. - The Student Environmental Action Coalition will hold a general meeting in Union 206.

5 p.m. - Students for Economic Justice will sponsor a discussion on "Women in Sweatshops: Perceptions, Myths and Connections" in Union 212.

5 p.m. - The Campus Crusade for Christ and the Muslim Student Association will hold an interfaith dialogue in Gerrard Hall.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - The Women's Issues Network and the Carolina Women's Center will sponsor an awards ceremony honoring outstanding female students, staff, faculty and alumnae in Carmichael Ballroom.

7 p.m. - Donate Life, an organization dedicated to educating the campus

about bone marrow registration and donation, meets every Tuesday in 108 Hanes Hall. Contact Kate Hanlon at newt@email.unc.edu for information.

8 p.m. - The Queer Network for Change will sponsor a drag show, "Night of the Divas." It will take place in the Carolina Union Auditorium. Admission is \$5.

## For the Record

Monday's brief "Professor to Speak on Oxford Study Abroad" should have stated that Christopher Armitage, director of the Oxford Study Abroad Program, will speak about this year's trip at 4 p.m. March 29 in 305 Greenlaw Hall.

Monday's story "Gymnasts Set Records in Victory" should have stated Jennifer DeLuca won the vault with a score of 9.875 and Brooke Wilson finished second with a 9.800. Wilson won the beam with a mark of 9.900.

Friday's article "New Social Work Class Offered to Undergraduates" should have said the a.p.p.l.e.s. program called "SOWO 150: Public Service and Social Change" was the first social work class offered to undergraduates. The course was offered for spring semester. The DTH regrets the errors.

**FACULTY** think that Textbook Request Deadlines are Unreasonable

**STUDENTS** think Buyback Prices are Too Low & there aren't enough Used Books

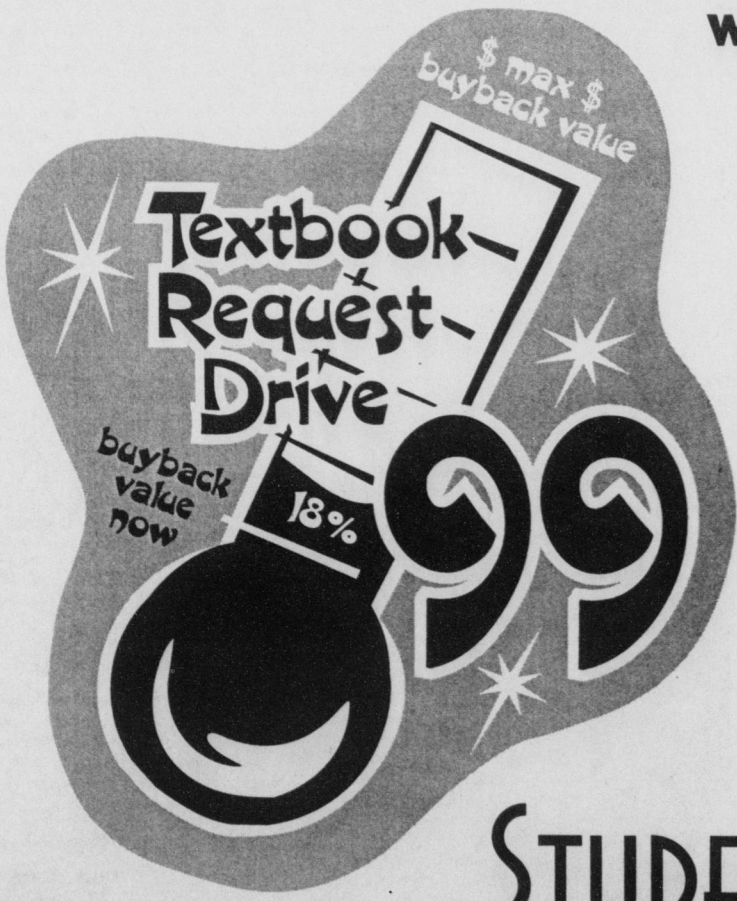
**We think these perceptions are related!**

Buyback prices are based on whether or not we have received book requests for next semester. We pay students up to 50% of the new retail price for books that we know will be needed. If we don't know that a book will be used, we can only offer the wholesale price, which is always substantially lower. **And the sooner we know a book is needed, the more used copies we can buy at Buyback and from wholesalers.**

**We are asking all faculty to please submit their Fall Textbook Orders by the suggested deadline of Friday, March 26.**

**With just four days left before this deadline, we have only received requests for 18% of the courses being offered next semester.**

Please help us do better! **Get your requests in today to help us pay students more money at buyback and provide more used books for future students!**



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