

UNC to Recruit Graduates for Jobs

BY ALEXANDRA MOLAIRE AND PATRICIA D. WRIGHT
Staff Writers

The University is taking an unprecedented step by trying to recruit college graduates to fill hundreds of vacant employee positions before the number of vacancies increases.

Drake Maynard, senior director of Human Resources Administration, explained at an Employee Forum meeting this week that the number of vacant positions that fall under the Subject to the Personnel Act, an act which mandates how employees are paid, had risen. As of Monday, 500 of the 6,000 SPA positions, which include secre-

taries, grounds workers, housekeepers and other support staff positions, were vacant, Maynard said. "In past years, the vacancy level was at about 275 to 300 positions."

Although the University has filled nearly 3,100 positions in the last 18 months, it needs to fill the vacancies, he said. The new figure was a problem because, for instance, two employees were doing the work of five, he said.

To fill vacant positions, Forum Chairwoman Jane Stine said members of the Human Resources Department were going to other campuses for the first time to recruit and interview graduates for the jobs. "We will also be recruiting UNC graduates, but we are

going to other campuses to expand our recruiting efforts."

Maynard said Human Resources was recruiting employees on college campuses such as Virginia Tech and Penn State universities and the University of Florida.

The Human Resources Department is also advertising the open positions on Web sites such as monster.com, academiccareers.com and Trianglejobs.com to garner more applicants, he said.

The main reason for many of the vacancies, Maynard said, was normal turnover. "People leave positions because they retire, leave for better jobs or die," he said.

However, Maynard said the booming

economy also contributed to the problem. "The economy is just so good that there are more jobs than there are people," he said.

Forum member and University stock clerk Forrest Aiken said better-paying positions often drew employees to other jobs. "It's often hard to compete with the Research Triangle Park because people can work there and get more money."

Stine said she wanted to relieve the strain on current SPA employees. "It is important that we do a good job recruiting for eligible graduates to work in these information technology jobs."

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Soyinka Remembers Apartheid Violence

BY PATRICIA D. WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Truth, restitution and reconciliation in South Africa were at the heart of a lecture given by Nobel Prize laureate and Nigerian activist Wole Soyinka Thursday night.

Soyinka, who has been in exile from Nigeria since 1994 because of his outspoken views on activism, spoke to about 430 community members and UNC students concerning South Africa's quest to accept the effects of apartheid and its journey to heal as a nation.

Soyinka began his lecture with a short discussion on the presence of atonement, restitution and reconciliation in Nigerian folklore and the Old and New Testament of the Bible.

After a story about a Nigerian deity who made atonements to humans every year, Soyinka said it took exceptional people to atone for their own doings.

"It is not human nature to say 'look, here it is, I have profited unfairly.'"

The topic Soyinka spent the most time on was the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The commission was designed to help South Africans put apartheid behind them and to eventually forgive apartheid supporters, he said.

Soyinka gave detailed accounts of

acts of violence made by perpetrators in South Africa despite the presence of the commission. He said the court hearings that followed such violence caused shocking reactions from families of victims and perpetrators.

In the case of a young girl who committed murder, Soyinka said the girl was sentenced to die by lethal injection. "When the mother of the girl was told this, she said 'I wish to complete the action myself,'" he said, because she was so angry.

Political science Professor Isaac Unah said he enjoyed the lecture of first-hand accounts.

"Descriptions of how perpetrators and victims behave during hearings were poignant to hear," he said.

Unah said most of all he enjoyed Soyinka's presentation style.

"He has a deep intellectual meaning," Unah said.

"You almost have to have a background in African culture to understand his lectures."

Soyinka ended his lecture by telling the audience the importance of letting go for South Africans.

"Truth, restitution and reconciliation must be obtained," he said. "But maybe instead of reconciliation, we should focus on healing."

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ARTS BRIEFS

Lab! Comedy Examines Change Among Friends

This weekend Lab! Theatre will present "Boys' Life," a comedy by Howard Korder. Director Joey Riddle said this play was a comedic look at three men and how their friendships changed as they grew older.

The play also takes a look at the men's relationships with women and the problems that result.

"Boys' Life" opens Saturday at 8 p.m. in Playmakers Theatre. Performances will continue at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday and Monday and 5 p.m. Tuesday.

All shows are free.

'Grease' Hits Cabaret Courtesy of Paupers

Danny, Sandy, Rizzo, Frenchie and the T Birds will all be in the Student Union Cabaret this weekend.

But don't expect to see John Travolta or any other of Grease's memorable stars.

Instead, UNC students will portray the popular characters as Pauper Players put on its rendition of the classic musical.

The performance runs tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m., and there will be a matinee Saturday at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at a cost \$5 for UNC students, staff, faculty and children under 12 and \$10 for everyone else.

They can be purchased in the Pit, at the door or by calling 962-4391.

Patrons might want to exercise some caution in bringing young ones to the performance.

It includes adult language, adult situations as well as mild nudity.

— From Staff Reports

UNC Sets Up Early Decision Plan

BY AMY ANDERSON
Staff Writer

As UNC gears up for the next round of incoming students, admissions officials say they plan to implement a new early decision option and more personal recruiting tactics.

With the new early decision plan, students who apply by the October deadline will hear from UNC by December. If accepted, these students will face a binding commitment, requiring them to send a \$300 to \$400 deposit by Jan. 1.

The regular and late decision dates will not require commitment until May. The current plan, known as early action, allows applicants to apply by an early deadline without binding them to UNC. Herbert Davis, assistant director of Undergraduate Admissions, said the

option would be available in the fall.

Davis said input from students and members of the Council Advisory Group, which includes guidance counselors from North Carolina high schools, prompted UNC to implement the option already offered by schools such as Duke and Wake Forest.

"(Students and counselors) are the ones who think it would be something that is necessary," he said. "These other schools are willing to have early decision, so why not Chapel Hill? This pressures us to meet the market demands."

Davis said this option offered advantages to students. If they know UNC is their first choice, students will have the opportunity to reserve a place early. Students placed on the waitlist also have a better chance to be accepted since the openings will be known earlier.

In addition to accepting students at an earlier date, the admissions office would also like to create a smaller, more personal atmosphere at UNC.

Barbara Polk, assistant director of Undergraduate Admissions, said one way of making UNC more familiar to incoming students were faculty and student phone-a-thons. Conducted in previous years but reinstated this fall, phone-a-thons will match applicants with a faculty member or student in their prospective major, allowing early interaction with the University.

Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions Anthony Strickland said, "We want people to know you are not just a number here."

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

BOG

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consultants that individual institutions could turn to as they tried to revamp their academic programs.

Aside from these internal changes, the 16 schools also face expansion concerns, with which consultants could also assist. Pulley said 32 percent of the growth would probably have to be met through expanded capacities and new facilities.

She stressed that this plan was not the final word on enrollment for 10 years. "Every year we will check actual enrollment," she said. "This is not some undying commitment."

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

ALCOHOL

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Marchetti said that by analyzing the study, researchers discovered that on any given night, two out of three students had zero percent blood alcohol

JORDAN

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plex. Jordan owns restaurants in New York and Chicago, and both are housed in old renovated buildings.

This restaurant is different from Jordan's other eateries because it is being built from the ground up, Puech said. Puech said he could not speculate on the type of food the restaurant would serve, but he said the other two were steakhouses and that this eatery would probably have a different type of menu.

Construction of the building was originally scheduled for completion in April, but it has been rescheduled for May.

Puech had said plans for the restaurant would be available in December. Representatives for Jordan's consulting

company have refused to comment on the details of the eatery.

There are no plans for a press conference, and Jordan's company has asked to handle all dealings with the media, Puech said.

"All I can tell you is that plans are in the works," Puech said. "(Jordan) is very excited about building a restaurant here."

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



Michael Jordan is planning to open a restaurant on West Franklin Street near BWS in the Pavilion II complex.

OBERHART

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to class, it made everyone smile," Shaver said.

No longer a student in the doctorate program, Oberhart now spends his time working as a computer consultant, guest lecturing at UNC classes and perfecting his Internet skills.

Oberhart, who designs his own web pages, also speaks to students enrolled in the course JOMC 50, Electronic Information Systems.

"I come in to give students a different perspective on surfing and web browsing," said Oberhart, who uses his talking computer to navigate the web and use e-mail.

Andrea Beloff, a senior journalism major, said she was impressed by Oberhart's visit to her class.

"Working on the web takes a lot of skill. I could not imagine doing that without my sight," Beloff said. "I am very impressed with what he has accomplished in his lifetime."

Oberhart, who began using computers in 1983, said he spent several hours a day perusing the Internet.

Confidently navigating his house as if he had a sixth sense, Oberhart proudly showed off the converted computer room he shares with Kelley, his wife of almost 10 years.

"If there is a computer toy, then we have it," Oberhart joked.

Despite the difficulties of everyday life, Oberhart does not consider blindness an impairment.

"I do the same things as everyone else, I just do them differently."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

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