

Legislation Aims To Limit Visitation

Under a new bill, colleges in Arizona might limit hours for visitation and ban liquor from residence halls.

By COURTNEY OBRINGER
Staff Writer

Arizona legislators concerned with low college retention rates, have proposed limiting coed visiting hours at the state's universities as a possible solution. The bill, sponsored by Arizona Republican legislator Jean McGrath, would prohibit residence hall coed visitation between midnight and 6 a.m. at the state's public universities. The proposed bill also would outlaw the possession of alcoholic beverages and pets in residence halls. A legislative committee recently approved the bill. It will now go before the full Arizona House of Representatives - perhaps as early as Thursday.

McGrath said she hoped to remedy a low retention rate among students entering their sophomore year of college. Arizona's retention rate has dropped dramatically in recent years. She said overnight guests distracted students from schoolwork, making it harder for them to keep up in college. "Drinking and overnight visiting are not conducive to a good learning environment," she said.

McGrath said coed residence halls were a relatively new phenomenon in the United States. "In my eyes, (coed residence halls) are an experiment that has failed," she said. But it is not uncommon for college students to be allowed to visit members of the opposite sex at all hours. At UNC-Chapel Hill, individual residence halls have different visitation policies. Morrison residence hall is one of the few residence halls on campus that has 24-hour visitation.

Al Calarco, assistant director of housing at UNC-CH, said the Residence Hall Association was committed to ensuring students' rights to privacy, sleep and study.

But Calarco said roommates decided a visitation policy among themselves in a roommate contract.

"The hardest challenge of visitation is an individual negotiation between a student and their roommate," he said.

Calarco said UNC-CH boasted a relatively high retention rate, but several factors, including transfers and personal reasons, could prevent freshman from returning for a second year.

But not all UNC schools exhibit the leniency found at UNC-CH.

Brad Reid, director of housing and residential life at UNC-Wilmington, said students could only have visitors between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. from Monday to Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. on the weekends.

Although most residence halls contained both sexes, Reid said floors were not allowed to mingle after hours.

Reid said most students followed the visitation policy, but violators were punished. "If someone is discreet enough though, they can get past the rules," he said.

Reid said the strict visitation policies protected young, impressionable freshmen. "It is in the best interest of all concerned that we have restricted visitation," he said.

Susan Grant, assistant housing director at N.C. State University, said N.C. State had a limited visitation policy in all of its residence halls.

She said most dropouts occurred between freshman and sophomore years of college, but she did not think a more rigid visitation policy would correct it.

"I personally think there are other reasons why people leave school at N.C. State."

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

"The hardest challenge of visitation is an individual negotiation between a student and their roommate."

AL CALARCO
UNC-CH Assistant Director of Housing

Report Examines Town's Transit

By ROBERT ALBRIGHT
Staff Writer

As Chapel Hill Transit motors into its 26th year of public busing, officials continue the struggle to meet the needs of those who have raised a red flag over public transportation.

In response to community busing concerns, a committee of the Chapel Hill Transportation Board recently outlined busing issues in its 25th anniversary report, which was presented to the Town Council on Monday night at a public hearing.

Despite Chapel Hill's reputation as a model public transportation community in North Carolina, Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said the town needed to look at every angle when confronting busing problems. Waldorf said the existing bus system offered excellent service most of the day, but it still had its drawbacks.

"(Chapel Hill's busing system) does a very good job of getting people to the University and the town center," she said. "But it's not a great system on nights and weekends."

Issues raised by residents and students in the Transportation Board's report included more frequent daytime service for existing routes, expanded

service to different areas of town and better access to regional busing services in Durham and Raleigh.

Transportation Board Chairman Ken Robinson said there was no way to continually offer buses at non-peak hours such as nighttime and weekends.

"We can't afford for two dozen riders to have 10 buses operating over a several-hour period," Robinson said.

Chapel Hill Transit Director Bob Godding said many transit decisions often came down to demand for services and the cost of running them.

"We'll certainly consider the request to have more services," he said. "But there's obviously not as much demand for nighttime services, so (adding) these additional services would cost more."

Elizabeth Kane, a third-year UNC law student and a transportation board member, said the problems students and residents had voiced were not going unnoticed. "Our bus service is one of the best and most comprehensive in the state," she said. "When the town gets more spread out, though, it's harder to provide intensive bus service."

According to Chapel Hill Transit reports, annual ridership has grown from just under 2 million riders in 1974-75 to more than 3 million riders in 1998-

How Chapel Hill Measures Up Nationwide

Chapel Hill allots up to three times as much money in its annual budget for its bus routes as compared to larger college towns across the country.

System	Population	Trips per capita	Budget per capita
State College, Pa.	61,239	34.54	\$48.01
Fort Collins, Colo.	105,809	14.88	\$28.26
Champaign-Urbana, Ill.	115,524	76.24	\$82.95
Davis, Calif.	52,711	35.29	\$26.13
Chapel Hill, N.C.	50,000	53.42	\$99.11
Durham, N.C.	155,000	19.57	\$33.03
Winston-Salem, N.C.	185,184	18.34	\$32.50
Greensboro, N.C.	185,184	8.92	\$17.14

SOURCE: 1996 SECTION 15 DATA

99.

Transit reports also state the Chapel Hill Transit system's expenses and routes compared favorably to other university-oriented transit systems around the country.

Chapel Hill Transit's 53.42 trips per capita and \$99.11 budget per capita far exceeded the data from such towns as State College, Pa., and Fort Collins, Colo.

Town Council member Pat Evans said Chapel Hill's growing population had a major influence on the growth of the transit system.

"How we plan for things is a balanc-

ing act," she said. "We don't want busing to stop at county lines."

In hopes of fostering smooth regional and local busing, Waldorf said the council would work on a balanced transportation system. She said most progress made would rest upon funding.

"We absolutely would need more funding," she said.

"We need permission from the (N.C.) General Assembly for a half-cent sales tax for transit, but every year we get turned down."

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

Study Reveals Rise in Female Convict Numbers

Officials say drug use plays a major role in the rising number of female inmates in prisons nationwide.

By RACHEL LEONARD
Staff Writer

Prisons nationwide are quickly filling to overcapacity - with female prisoners, according to a recent study.

Published by The Sentencing Project, an organization that advocates prison reform, the report indicates that seven times as many women are incarcerated today than in 1980. Drug offenses are cited as the main reason for the increase.

The number of female inmates imprisoned for drug offenses rose by 888 percent nationwide from 1986 to 1996, the study stated.

Black and Hispanic women repre-

sented a largely disproportionate share of the women sentenced.

Marc Mauer, assistant director of The Sentencing Project, attributed the disparity to income status.

"When middle-class people have a drug problem, they usually have insurance and deal with it as a health problem," he said. "When low-income people have a drug problem, these opportunities usually aren't available, and it becomes a criminal problem."

Eric Sterling, president of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation, said many women were incarcerated because they took the blame for men who committed the drug crimes.

"I know of one woman who told a (drug) customer where to find her boyfriend, a drug dealer," he said. "She was sentenced for 10 years."

North Carolina is also included in the nationwide problem. Tracy Little, director of Public Information for North

Carolina's Department of Corrections, said the number of N.C. women being incarcerated was rising.

She said another major concern was the effect on the children whose mothers were incarcerated. Two-thirds of the women in prison have children under the age of 18. The children usually stay with relatives, but 10 percent are in foster care, according to the report.

A 1991 survey showed that one-half of female prisoners who are mothers had never had a visit with their children. "These children are often relocated, feel shameful and have problems at school," Mauer said. "This puts them at a higher risk in getting in trouble with the law."

Sterling told of one mother who was falsely accused of drug trafficking by her ex-husband, a drug dealer. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

"Her 12-year-old has since attempted suicide and gone from a good student to a failing one," Sterling said. "The 19-

year-old has been hospitalized due to the stress of taking care of the family.

"The effect on the children will be catastrophic. The war on drugs is a bombshell on the American family."

The Sentencing Project report strongly advocated the repeal of mandatory drug-sentencing laws.

Chapel Hill Police Lt. Everett Johnson said he was not sure if the sentencing laws were fair.

"(But) everyone should get the same treatment across the board," he said.

Mauer said mandatory sentencing laws did not have a substantial impact on deterrence. He said he advocated intervention programs and effective rehabilitation programs within prisons.

"Prisons are becoming warehouses, rather than institutions where rehabilitations take place."

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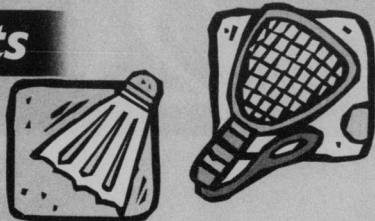


CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports

SPORT DEADLINE

Badminton Today, Feb. 1
Team Racquetball Today, Feb. 1

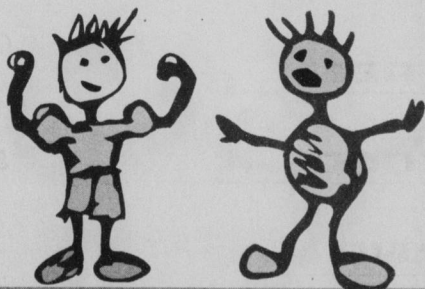


EMPLOYEE INTRAMURALS: Drop-in **VOLLEYBALL** resumes play tonight, 5:15-7-ish in Fetzer Gym B. The Saturday morning **BASKETBALL** League moves back to Woollen, 9AM.

Records: Older But Slower (0-1), Brown Hornets (2-0), Bad Boys (0-2), Bookheads (1-0), Gummers (0-1), Human Subjects (2-0), Kim Wipes (0-1)

Fitness & Aerobics

APOLOGIES TO STUDENTS who may have been inconvenienced by recent irregular hours. The SRC sustained a fair amount of damage due to the snow and ice storms but thanks to **Lea Stroud** leading the PE Work Center staff, particularly **Willie "Pee Wee" Rice** for weekend duty, SRC closings were kept to a minimum.



CAROLINA CLUB OF THE WEEK: EQUESTRIAN



The UNC-CH Equestrian Team (UNCET) is a sport club team consisting of thirty women. The team participates in weekly lessons, fundraising, charity activities, and 7-9 intercollegiate horse shows each academic year. Try-outs are held every August and January with officer elections in early April. There are six officer positions: 2 co-captains, secretary, treasurer, historian/sport club liaison, and ACC liaison. The team's zone ranges from mid-Virginia to upper South Carolina, which includes teams from NC State, Duke, UNC-G, Virginia Tech, and Ferrum. For more information on UNCET, contact Caroline Vosnock at 370-5605 or vosnock@email.unc.edu

Upcoming Home Sport Club Events include:

Ice Hockey: Friday, Feb. 4, 10:15PM, Hillsborough Sportsplex. Contact August Jenkins at 914-0992 or unc_hockey@hotmail.com

Come enjoy Carolina Sport Clubs action. For any questions about the UNC Sport Clubs Program or for a list of all 40 clubs and contact numbers, please call 962-1013 or email Sport Club Director Steve Bradley at smbradle@email.unc.edu

Sport Clubs

Carolina Adventures

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the first annual Leading Edge Carolina Indoor Climbing Competition on Friday, Jan. 21. There was a great turn-out in the competitive and recreational divisions. **Winners included:**
MEN'S COMP: Jae Sun Rhee, Alex Fitzner, Luke Keele
WOMEN'S COMP: Callie Gudeman
MEN'S REC: Adam March, Daniel Kono, Michael Sulock
WOMEN'S REC: Christy Peterson, Cheryl Cunningham, Jan Hughes



ALWAYS COCA-COLA. ALWAYS CAROLINA!!

www.unc.edu/depts/camprec

