

DTH/ELAN DASSANI

Shunyoung Smith serves coffee to thirsty patrons at the Ram Cafe. At the request of students, the cafe started selling organic coffee Tuesday.

Student's Coffee Wish Sparks Organic Options

By DENISE SCOTT
Staff Writer

One student's request for organic coffee was fulfilled Monday after it was added to the menu of an on-campus coffee shop.

The Ram Cafe, on the bottom floor of Lenoir Dining Hall, began offering coffee made with organically grown coffee beans this week.

Scott Myers, food service director for Carolina Dining Services, said CDS officials first investigated the possibility of offering organic coffee after a student request.

"(The student) came into the office and said that she liked the organic coffee offered at the Weaver Street Market and thought that the Ram Cafe should start serving it," he said.

Two signs posted in the cafe by Student Environmental Action Coalition members proclaimed the benefits of choosing organic coffee and encouraged students to make the switch from their regular brand.

Organic coffee beans are better for the environment as they are grown without synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, according to the signs.

The SEAC poster said the purchase of organic coffee beans helped to keep small farms in business as they are grown by small farmer cooperatives. These sales allow small farms to compete with large growers.

The farms are also home to millions of endangered migrating songbirds, and

the business of organic coffee beans helps to preserve their environment, said junior Chiara D'Amore.

SEAC also pointed out that organic coffee provided the same taste as coffee made from regular beans, for the same price.

Myers said he then checked with the CDS coffee provider and found they offered organic coffee beans at similar price to that of the regular beans.

Ram Cafe was chosen as the place to test out the popularity of organic coffee and offered free samples all day Monday.

Official sales of the coffee began Tuesday.

Myers said that if the sales were good, he hoped organic coffee would be sold in every store that offered coffee on campus.

Shunyoung Smith, a freshman from Tarboro and a Ram Cafe employee, said the coffee would sell well but was not sure because it was only the first week the coffee had been offered at campus locations.

Loren Hart, a senior philosophy major from Concord, described himself as a regular coffee drinker and seemed interested in the organic alternative as he stood in line at Ram Cafe.

Hart said, "If all those things are true about organic coffee, and it is the same price as regular, I would definitely buy it."

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

Proposed Road Enrages Residents

By KEVIN KRASNOW
Staff Writer

Residents attempting to put up a road block to a proposed connector street vented frustrations at a public hearing before the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday night.

The proposed street would connect Autumn Drive between Williams Woods and Barington Hills in Carrboro. A public forum was held in November on the matter, but public debate created the need for another hearing.

Most residents who spoke at the meeting were staunchly opposed to the proposal. Tim Cummins, of 101 Downing Court, said the proposal would endanger residents' safety and increase the level of traffic.

"The design of Barington Hills was

never intended to accommodate the additional traffic," he said. "Clearly our safety will be in peril - several hills are blind, and drivers taking this shortcut will not see pedestrians."

The Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board and the Carrboro Planning Board have already endorsed the proposal. According to Kenneth Withrow, Carrboro transportation planner, the total cost of the connector is \$153,000. Withrow said the connector satisfied many conditions.

"It satisfies the town's land-use ordinance," he said. "It will also allow for sidewalks and bicycle travel."

Richard Ellington, of 109 Bruton Drive, criticized the board for not paying enough attention to the concerns of affected residents.

"You've been hearing, but maybe not

listening, to what we've been saying," he said. "Policies like this should serve man, not the other way around."

Town staff also proposed building a sidewalk to make the road more pedestrian-friendly. However, residents were angered because they would have to shoulder the costs of constructing any sidewalks.

"My personal share of paying for the sidewalk would be \$7,600," said Thomas Graham of 200 Bruton Drive.

But not all residents thought the connector road would increase traffic and hinder safety. Giles Blunden, of 107 Circadian Way, said he felt traffic would actually be lessened in some areas.

"This is such a one-sided argument being presented by private ownership," he said. "I don't feel like a lot of traffic will cut through, and with the connector,

other roads will see less traffic. It would also cause less pollution."

Katherine Cole, of 208 Barington Hills Road, argued that the connector would damage the vitality and livability of the neighborhood.

"Our streets are the soul of our neighborhood," she said. "Our neighborhood is being invaded because of a policy."

Alderman Diana McDuffee, who could not attend the meeting because of family-related matters, said the connector road issue was a difficult one to address.

"We have a land policy that says all terminating streets need to be connected," she said. "That's why this issue has been so controversial."

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

New Student Attorney General Takes Helm

Junior Taylor Lea began her new role in the student judicial system last week, succeeding Drew Haywood.

By ALLISON FORD
Staff Writer

Junior Taylor Lea says her top priority as the new student attorney general was to increase awareness of UNC's student judicial process.

Lea began her one-year stint in the office last week, succeeding Drew Haywood.

The student attorney general has the task of deciding whether or not to charge with honor court violations a student once a complaint has been filed. They also oversee processes such as the investigation and the hearing.

Lea, a junior from Greenville, said she planned to stay very busy this year putting in 25-30 hours a week in her office.

"One of my main goals is to increase awareness of the student judicial process," Lea said. She said she planned to accomplish this through monthly press releases that will inform and update students on events involving the Honor Court.

"We represent students and are working with students," Lea said.

With about 80 open cases right now, Lea wants to also increase efficiency within the student attorney general's office.

"I want to keep things running smoothly," she said.

Lea said she wanted to bring some new ideas into the office that would help her achieve this goal. She said she would like to make a few changes to the Honor

Code and the Honor Court process.

"If a student pleads guilty and accepts normal sanctions in a cheating or possession of marijuana case, there should be an abbreviated process instead of a full hearing," she said.

Lea has been involved with the student attorney general's office for two years and was appointed to her position by Student Body President Nic Heinke.

She said she wanted to take a leadership position in this organization because she felt guilty for enjoying the work so much.

"I've had a fabulous time with this organization," Lea said.

Former Student Attorney General Drew Haywood had some advice to offer Lea. He said that above all he would recommend Lea select quality leaders for her staff.

"You can't tell people what to do; they have to want to do it in order to be successful," he said.

"The most challenging thing for me was learning to balance office life with personal life."

Lea will serve her term as student attorney general until March 1 of next year according to the Student Code.

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

"One of my main goals is to increase awareness of the student judicial process. We... are working with students."

TAYLOR LEA
Student Attorney General

Study: Calif. Lottery Targets Poor

By ALICIA GADDY AND KIM GRABNER
Staff Writers

As N.C. politicians weigh the pros and cons of a state lottery, a new study has suggested the California Lottery might be receiving a large amount of its revenue from low-income residents.

But California Lottery officials questioned the accuracy of the study and said ticket sales reflected the makeup of the population.

The study claimed a concentrated segment of the poor bought the majority of the state's lottery tickets.

Mark Capitolo, spokesman for Calif. Sen. Don Parata, said 90 percent of lottery sales came from 20 percent of the players, who come from households earning \$35,000 per year or less. "The people that play it the most are the people that can afford it the least," he said.

But he also said the lottery gave 34 percent of its revenue to public education and school improvements.

The California Lottery Web site stat-

ed that lottery funds had contributed \$11 billion to public schools since its inception in 1985. This is about 2 percent of all public school funding.

But Capitolo said the state should take more responsibility for educational funding rather than rely on the lottery.

"There is no need for the lottery if the legislature and government would step up to the plate and decide to fund education fully," he said.

But lottery advocates denied that the poor funded the lottery and argued that additional funds for education outweighed any negative aspects.

Joanne McNabb, lottery spokeswoman, said California Lottery sales did not profit only off the poor.

She said the median household income in California was \$40,000, and almost half of the lottery players came from households with incomes above that median. "We get our sales from the different income levels proportionally to how many people there are in each level," McNabb said.

But she said lottery sales often attract-

ed the poorer population because buying a \$1 lottery ticket was an inexpensive activity.

With N.C. gubernatorial elections approaching, the possibility of a state lottery could figure prominently in the race. Democratic candidates advocate the lottery as an education moneymaker, while Republicans condemn it as immoral.

But Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, said N.C. lottery advocates were not spending much time examining California's lottery situation.

He said N.C. politicians were more likely to look to South Carolina, which might soon institute a state lottery, as an example of the effects a N.C. lottery could have.

He added that the California Lottery should not be eliminated because the poor often choose to play. "It's patronizing to tell people how to spend their money."

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

Campus Calendar

Today

10 a.m. - The Out of State Students Association will be in the Pit until 2 p.m. to sign students up for Spring Break shuttles.

noon - The Sonya H. Stone Black Cultural Center will hold an "Around the Circle" discussion in the center.

The discussion, facilitated by Richard Jackson III and Jarret York, will focus on black people in the Bible and examine the misuse and misconceptions of Christianity to justify slavery.

3 p.m. - The Sonya H. Stone Black Cultural Center will hold an Ambassadors interest meeting. Find out how you can spread the good news about the BCC.

4 p.m. - There will be an interest meeting in Union 224 to learn more about APPLS paid school-year internships.

Interns will earn three hours of academic credit and \$1,200.

5:30 p.m. - The Cross-Cultural Communications Institute will hold a discussion on "Can We Be Counted?" in the Sonya H. Stone Black Cultural Center.



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