

Patient: Pot Eases Effects of HIV

During a Monday speech sponsored by NORML, an HIV-positive activist says marijuana helped his illness.

By BETH O'BRIEN Staff Writer

Greg Scott is one person who describes his 50-pound weight gain as beneficial to his health.

Scott, an HIV-positive homosexual, discussed his struggles with the disease and his belief in the power of marijuana at Monday night's event hosted by UNC's National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Laws.

Scott said that, seven years after his diagnosis, he had wasted away to 120 pounds and purple sarcoma lesions covered his face. "Every reflection shimmered with my death," he said.

Scott discovered he had the disease in 1987 while still in the Navy. He said an HIV-positive diagnosis at that time was a death sentence.

"I've seen many of my friends die in the 13 years since," he said. "But I've survived, and it's because of marijuana."

Scott spoke of a close friend of his, also HIV-positive, who remained relatively healthy while regularly smoking marijuana. Scott witnessed a rapid deterioration in his friend's health only when he stopped using the drug. After his friend's death, Scott made a decision to battle the disease from a different angle.

"I decided to avail myself of every weapon, including marijuana, law be damned," he said.

After he began smoking the drug, he

described a miraculous 50-pound weight gain and return of energy.

"I don't look too bad, do I?" asked the athletic-looking 38-year-old.

Scott related his first experience with marijuana at the age of seven when he and one of his buddies stumbled upon a government research farm. They had their first whiff of marijuana from the other side of a high chain link fence capped with razor blades. "It was the only legal pot in America," he said, "I can still remember the rich green stink."

Scott answered questions from the audience and debunked certain myths, citing published reports by the Institute of Medicine.

"Marijuana as a gateway drug is bull-shit," he said. Scott blames instead the drug dealers who sell other narcotics, such as cocaine, alongside marijuana.

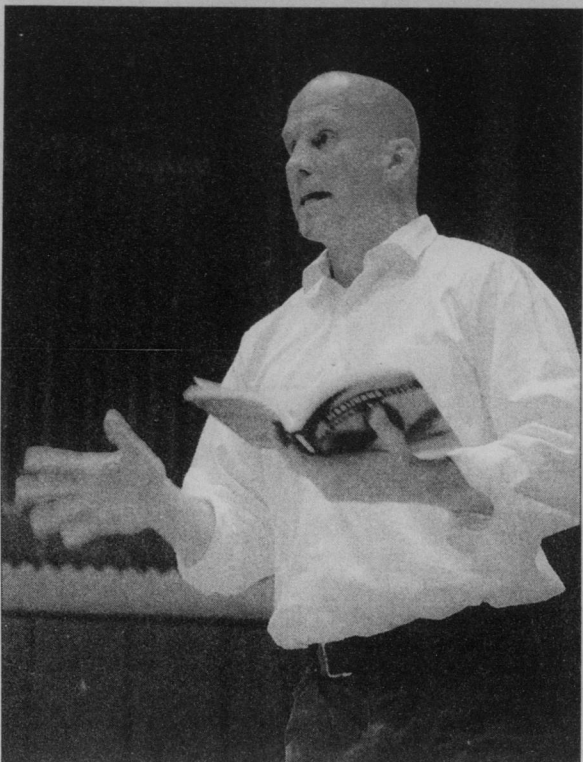
Scott also likened the U.S. marijuana ban in 1937 to Prohibition. "With Prohibition, there was an amendment to the Constitution," he said.

"How has marijuana been taken (from us) without an amendment? Who gave the (government) that authority?"

Missy Edwards, a resident of Chapel Hill, said she had learned a lot from Scott's defense of the drug. "Marijuana can affect so many people," she said. "Just because it doesn't help one person doesn't mean it won't help someone else."

Shaina Gross, a member of NORML, said she was impressed with Scott's speech. "Marijuana shouldn't be as illegal as it is," she said. "We're just trying to change the outlook on it."

Scott acknowledges and even depends on that effort to remove the stigma of marijuana. "I look around at faces I recognize clearly as the future,"



Greg Scott, an HIV-positive medical marijuana user, speaks to students in the Great Hall on Monday night about the benefits of the drug.

he said. "The momentum for change is with you. I urge you to take a hold of it and make it go the fair way."

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

Town OKs Annexation Of Durham Land Tract

By ERICA COLEMAN Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council decided in an 8-1 vote last night to annex a piece of Durham County land into Chapel Hill town limits.

This area of land is located southeast of the present town limits and is owned by the University. It is located in Durham County.

The decision to annex had been part of the town's comprehensive plan.

A memorandum on the Annexation Ordinance for Area 2, which is University-owned property in Durham County, stated that the new state laws would allow the plan to go ahead.

"Revisions in the state annexation laws, effective Nov. 1, 1998, enable the town to move forward with a town-initiated annexation of this area," the memorandum stated.

The memorandum also stated that all the same municipal services as are provided in Chapel Hill would be given to the annexation area.

"On effective date of annexation, the town of Chapel Hill will provide each major municipal service on substantially the same basis and in the same manner as such services are provided within the rest of the town immediately before annexation."

Horton said the difference in town ordinances between Durham and Chapel Hill was another reason for annexation.

"Now, this part of UNC is part of Durham County and is subject to Durham County ordinances," he said. "We have these little pockets of incom-

patibility with our policies.

Aaron Nelson, coordinator of local and University relations represented the University during the hearing. He served as a liaison between the town and UNC and maintained that the University saw no need for the annexation.

He said it had not changed its position on the issue since the public hearing held March 20.

"Our position remains the same," he said. "We do not see significant benefits of annexation nor any need for town services."

Despite this opposition, the council voted to approve the annexation with only council member Edith Wiggins dissenting. Several council members said they voted for the resolution because they thought it was the best decision.

"The reason I moved it was not meant in a hostile way to the University," council member Kevin Foy said. "It just makes sense."

Council member Joyce Brown agreed. "I feel exactly the same way," she said. "It just seems like the right thing to do."

Nelson said this decision was not unexpected and a public hearing would be held June 19 to discuss the potential zoning of this property.

"The (council) will hold a hearing where they receive public comment (on the annexation)," he said. "We would be pleased with (Office Industrial Zoning). It is similar to the other zoning we have there."

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

Alcohol Probe Continues at Orange

By AMY DOBSON Staff Writer

Orange High School officials are continuing their investigation over the fate of five baseball players who were caught violating alcohol policies.

School authorities suspended the players from the team after they allegedly sneaked out after their coach's appointed curfew and consumed alcohol during an overnight team trip to Manteo on Friday, said varsity baseball coach Dean Dease.

"Nothing like this has ever happened (at Orange High) before," Dease said. "It's obviously very difficult dealing with the situation from every standpoint."

Dease, who declined to release the names of the players, said there was an investigation under way that required him to remain silent about details surrounding the event. "The administration is taking over the situation now," he said. "They will make the decisions."

After he caught some of the players in possession of alcohol and others under the influence, Dease suspended them from the baseball team for the remainder of the season.

Orange High School Athletic Director Jim King said the coach's move to suspend the players was in line with the athletic department's discipline policy.

"The violation warranted a year suspension from the team," he said. "This will not prevent them from playing on other teams, however."

Since the students were on a school-related trip, Orange High School did not hesitate to take action. Four were suspended for five days, while one was suspended for 10 days. The length of their suspension depended on their condition," Dease said.

Interim Principal Paige Kimball said school administration treated all students equally and they did not make exceptions for athletes. "We were following the Orange County School Board's code of consequences. These students were not treated any differently than any other student would have been."

This is not the first time that area high schools have had to punish athletes for drinking. In November, six players on East Chapel Hill High School's girls varsity field hockey team arrived at practice under the influence of alcohol. The girls

received a yearlong team suspension and a five-day school suspension.

In November 1998, the coach of Chapel Hill High's men's varsity soccer team canceled the remainder of the season after nine players were caught drinking alcohol disguised as Gatorade.

Local high schools are also going the extra mile to prevent all students from consuming alcohol on campus or at school-related functions.

This May, prom-goers at ECHHS must take a breathalyzer test upon entrance. Those with traces of alcohol in the bloodstream will not be admitted to the prom, and will face a five-day suspension and potential criminal charges.

Kimball shared the view of ECHHS administration that students violating school rules should be disciplined accordingly.

"(The school board) has a strict code of consequences that all students must follow," she said. "If they break the rules, they pay the consequence, whatever they are."

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

Campus Calendar

Wednesday

3:30 p.m. - Dr. Susan Carey of New York University will present a lecture on "The Origin of Concepts: Evolution and Culture" in 112 Davie Hall.

The Cognitive Science Program is presenting the lecture.

The event is free, and the public is invited.

7 p.m. - Students United for a Responsible Global Environment will sponsor a discussion on nonviolence and tactics for activists. It will be framed in the larger context of the April 16 International Monetary Fund/World Bank protests in Washington, D.C.

The discussion will be held at the Bull's Head Bookshop and will feature readings from Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

The event is free, and the public is

invited.
7:30 p.m. - Habitat for Humanity will hold its regular meeting in 101 Greenlaw Hall.

For the Record

Friday's article "Owners: Good Name Can Equal Success" should have stated that Goodfellow's awarded a \$100 gift certificate as a prize.

The DTH regrets the error.

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Spring Senior Week

April 10-15

When was the last time you went out to play?
All seniors are invited to Senior Week events!

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
Outstanding Senior/Favorite Faculty Awards Ceremony & Reception
Guest Speaker: **CHUCK STONE**, 3:30-5:30pm, George Watts Hill Alumni Center
We'll recognize some super seniors and favorite faculty members during this awards ceremony and reception.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
Senior Class Last Blast, 5pm-8pm, Carmichael Auditorium
You don't want to miss this! We'll have a BBQ lunch with all the trimmings, music, give aways, great door prizes, a giant slide and sumo wrestling. First 200 seniors receive a free Class of 2000 Last Blast T-shirt!

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
Senior Play Day III! 11am-2pm, Union Circle
We are taking over the Union Circle again! This time will be even better than last fall. We'll have games, senior stickers, food and more. Wear your Senior Class T-shirt and win great prizes! Bring an item for the Class of 2000 time capsule.

Senior Party at He's Not Here, 9pm-2am
This won't be the last senior party of the semester but what would Senior Week be without a He's Not Here party! \$2 cover charge.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
Swim Test Day, 9am-4pm, Bowman Gray Pool
Bring your UNC One Card!

Senior Day at the Ball Park, 7pm, Boshamer Stadium
Let's cheer on the Heels as they take on Maryland. There'll be a special salute to seniors which includes on-field games and prizes. Bring your UNC One Card. No outside food or beverages inside the stadium.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
Senior Service Project with Great Strides: Cystic Fibrosis 5K, 10-11am registration, Old Well
Let's make an impact! This is a fun and easy way to help with a great cause. Money raised goes to find a cure for CF, the number one genetic killer of children and young adults. \$2 minimum donation requested in honor of the Class of 2000. Raise \$50 and receive a free T-shirt. Stay for lunch after the walk and show your Senior Pride-wear your senior class T-shirt.

For more information visit alumni.unc.edu or www.unc.edu/student/orgs/seniors.
Questions? E-mail seniorweek@unc.edu or call 962-3582 and watch the DTH.

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