

Report Calls for Bike Safety Boost

BY ANYONAM KPEGLIO
Staff Writer

A Chapel Hill resident is calling for a change in the way people think about local transportation, advocating a more bicycle-friendly environment.

Wayne Pein, a former employee at the Highway Safety Research Center, released in February his second report in eight years on police-reported crashes in the area. He advocates eliminating bicycle paths on sidewalks, riding bicycles in the center lane and increasing driver and cyclist education.

The report stated that there were 86 police-reported bicycle-motor vehicle crashes in Chapel Hill between January 1996 and December 1999.

Those numbers represent a 31 percent decrease in the number of crashes when compared with Pein's previous report, for the period from February

1993 to January 1996.

Pein could only speculate on what caused the decrease but said he still wanted to raise awareness.

"My goal is to inform bicyclists and drivers of the risks involved and how to avoid accidents," he said. "In a college town, there are a fair amount of bicyclists, and they should be aware of the circumstances that cause the most common accidents."

Pein outlined four main types of accidents involving bicycles and motor vehicles. The most common accidents, "drive outs," occur when a motorist pulls out onto a street while a biker is crossing on a sidewalk or street, he reported.

Patrick Lynch, a UNC graduate student in English from Austin, Texas, and a mechanic at Franklin Street Cycles, said some of Pein's recommendations were easier said than done.

"In certain instances, riding your bike in the middle of the street is a good idea, but it would probably cause driver hostility if traffic slowed down," he said. "Riding safely in the street is a matter of picking your route; instead of Franklin (Street), I would ride on Rosemary (Street) or Cameron (Avenue)."

Lynch said he had been hit by cars before and that it was the bicyclist's responsibility to watch for cars.

"I always assume that drivers don't see me, but I've actually been hit once or twice when I thought the driver knew I was there," he said.

"Riding in the center of the street (to increase visibility) would be effective, but in practice, drivers are usually in a hurry and would only get mad."

Pein also said a way to facilitate driver awareness of bicyclist rights was to incorporate those facts into the initial Division of Motor Vehicles test that all

drivers must take.

"By adding more about sharing the road in drivers' education, you have a captive audience that will be more aware as they become experienced drivers," he said.

Ray Magyar, transportation planner for the University, said he agreed with Pein's recommendation to test drivers more rigorously on bicyclist road rules.

"Drivers need to be aware that they should look to see if there's a bike beside them before making a right turn," he said.

Magyar added that UNC was doing its part to promote bicycle safety as well.

"Drivers don't consider bicycling a valid form of transportation, but on this campus we do, and we try to accommodate it wherever we can."

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

Fonda to Advocate Girl Power at UNC

GROWISE secured the civil and women's rights activist to speak on the campus for the first time since 1974.

BY ALLISON FORD
Staff Writer

The University community will benefit from one campus group's three years of persistence and hard work when Jane Fonda visits later this month.

GROWISE, an organization focused on advocating and supporting access to educational opportunities for women and girls in international communities, has been working since 1997 to bring the activist to campus.

Fonda will speak in Memorial Hall on April 24, addressing the role of women's education and talking about her personal experiences dealing with women's issues in a speech titled "Girls!"

Though perhaps better known as an actress and fitness guru, Fonda has played an often controversial role as a highly visible activist.

She was called "Hanoi Jane" because of her opposition to the Vietnam War and since then has become a spokeswoman for civil and women's rights as well as environmental issues.

GROWISE President-elect Laurel Varnado said the group was excited about Fonda's second appearance on campus - Fonda spoke at UNC in 1974.

She said former President Emma

Richardson had been extremely persistent with Fonda's publicist to secure the actress this year.

Member and former President Emily Wurth said GROWISE especially wanted Fonda as a campus speaker because of her status as a women's activist.

"In 1994, in a conference in Cairo, she dealt with promoting women's status," she said.

Wurth said the Cairo speech signaled when Fonda really became a women's activist.

Although many well-known speakers who visit the University are paid for their efforts, Fonda is not asking for money in exchange for her speech.

"We're going to donate \$500 to (her charity)," Varnado said.

Tickets will be available exclusively to UNC students April 19 and 20 at no cost.

While Fonda's visit to campus is the highlight of GROWISE's year, the group has been active throughout the school year.

Member Laura Greeson said the group took a twofold, grassroots-level approach.

She said the group financially supported women's education programs and tried to increase awareness about women's issues on campus and in the community.

Fonda's appearance is a major accomplishment for GROWISE and for the University community, Greeson said. "It lets people know what's going on in the world."

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

APPALACHIAN AFTERNOON



DTH/KAARIN MOORE

English Professor Michael Chitwood reads poetry to a relaxed crowd on the steps of South Building on Wednesday afternoon. The poetry reading was a part of "Appalachian Afternoon," an event that included readings and a panel discussion on Appalachian culture.

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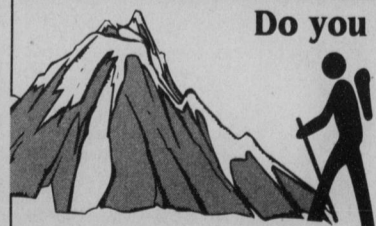
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5:00 pm at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center

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Campus Calendar

Today

10 a.m. - Dr. Susan Carey of New York University will be giving a lecture in Davie Hall.

The event is free, and the public is welcome.

For more information, call 962-4001.

7 p.m. - The 2000 Johnston Issues forum will be held in the Carroll Hall auditorium.

The topic for the forum is "Integrity in Politics" with keynote speaker Ed Turlington.

Turlington is the campaign manager for former presidential candidate Bill Bradley.

The forum will be moderated by Provost Dick Richardson.

The event is free, and the public is welcome.

7 p.m. - The North Chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will be holding its weekly meeting in Union 224.

The speaker this week will be Allan Poole.

The meeting is open to the public.

Saturday

8 a.m. - The MCAT exam has been moved from 328 Phillips Hall to 01 Carrington Hall.

All those registered for the MCAT should report directly to Carrington Hall.

11 a.m. - Come walk for a good cause in the Great Strides 5K Walk/Run for Cystic Fibrosis!

Registration for the walk opens at 10 a.m., and the walk officially begins at 11 a.m.

There is no minimum donation to participate.

The event is sponsored by Project UNC and is open to the public.

Proceeds will go to support cystic fibrosis research.

7 p.m. - The Black Student Movement proudly presents the cappella group Harmonyx at the BSM Spring Concert.

The event will be held in 121 Hanes Art Center. Tickets are available in the Pit.

The cost is \$2 for BSM members and \$3 for non-BSM members. Tickets are also available at the door.

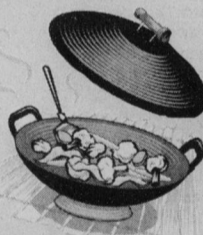
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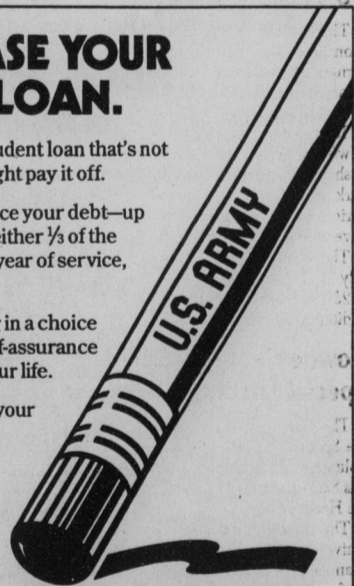
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Ferrel Guillory, UNC-CH, Deborah Ross, ACLU, & Provost Dick Richardson

join

Ed Turlington

campaign manager, Bill Bradley for President

Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m.

Carroll Hall Auditorium UNC-CH

free and open to the public

INTEGRITY in POLITICS

Johnston Scholars Issues Forum 2000