

Group Aids Area Homeless

By KELLIE DIXON
Assistant City Editor

With the doors shut on the Inter-Faith Council's weekend food service, another group has stepped up to provide lunch for local homeless people.

Community Cuisine, a nonprofit organization that offers culinary training and occasionally holds special events, created the bag lunch drive in an effort to ease hunger primarily for shelter members.

Kelly Ashton Welch, executive director of Community Cuisine, said the group had their first lunch event Saturday at McCorkle Place. "It went well," she said. "We had a lot of volunteers."

However, she added, the group was prepared to give out 70 meals but only gave out 15 instead.

The reason for this, Welch said, was because the signs that were hung up were only in English, and so people who could not read English did not understand them.

Kevin, a homeless man who stays at the shelter and did not want to release his last name, admitted he didn't know anything about the free lunches.

"(The IFC) needs to stay open on the weekends," he said. "People are used to going there on the weekends."

Welch said the organization was now trying to get the word out by having the IFC shelter make announcements and display signs and maps with directions to locations where the lunches would be given out.

Michael Ullman, founder of the four-year-old Community Cuisine and treasurer on the board said the cost of preparing the lunches was minimal.

"The cost of preparing the lunches is probably five dollars for everything," he said. "Everything is either donated or free or very low cost."

The group gets the food from the North Carolina Food Bank, which charges around 14 cents a pound for food. The only drawback is that the organization cannot rely on certain foods, he said.

Welch said most of the food they gave out was fruit, peanut butter and jelly, crackers, fruit roll-ups and pudding.

Most business owners on Franklin Street said they had not noticed an increase of homeless people and were not concerned about the program's impact on their shops.

"I'm not anticipating any problems," said Shelton Henderson, owner of the Shrunken Head Boutique.

The Community Cuisine is a culinary and job placement agency with an office at the University United Methodist Church on Franklin Street. Welch said the agency was not affiliated with the IFC and operated mainly from volunteer help, staffing only two individuals.

Welch said the mission of Community Cuisine was to provide culinary training for adults looking for jobs and students at risk of dropping out.

Welch said the group had only one fund-raiser to facilitate their purchases, an annual truffle sale with a goal of \$5,000. "We did receive quite a few donations," she said.

Ullman said the organization's next intended spot was University United Methodist Church.

"We're not asking any questions," he said. "We're not actively giving (the bag lunches) out, but certainly, anyone who would like a bag lunch is welcome to have one. We will continue to work to make sure this alternative is available."

Tricia Barrios contributed to this article.
The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

WHAT A RELIEF



DTH/KATE MELLNIK

Erik Mikysa, representing Sigma Nu fraternity, presents Mayor Rosemary Waldorf with a \$2,642 check that was raised by the community group "Neighbors for Speed." The money will help Speed residents Charlie and Roberta Mercer replace the roof on their house, which was damaged by Hurricane Floyd.

Conference Connects Jazz, Poetry

This year's annual Young Poet's Conference, called "Ring Shout," will host both writers and musicians.

By JEREMY HURTZ
Staff Writer

Many poets agree that there is a close connection between music and poetry. On Saturday, the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center's second annual Young Poet's Conference, called "Ring Shout," will look closely at this dynamic.

"It's all about the fusion of poetry and music," said Nadera Malika-Salaam, assistant program coordinator for the BCC.

Last year's conference focused on ways to get started writing poetry, Malika-Salaam said.

The link between music and poetry makes poetry more accessible to the general public, she said.

The conference's main attraction, poet Ursula Rucker, will read from her poetry at 8 p.m. on Saturday in the Student Union Cabaret.

Rucker's poetry appears on the albums *Madalaph Halflife* and *Things Fall Apart* by Philadelphia jazz-rap artists The Roots.

The reading is likely to be the con-

ference's most widely attended event, Malika-Salaam said.

"That's probably the most appealing to the average student," she said.

In addition to Rucker, three local poets will perform at the reading - Amir Sulaiman, Daniel Thomas, and "rufusx-aviersarsparilla." All four poets will perform to music provided by the Charlotte-based jazz band Xperiment.

"It's a little bit of an eclectic mix," Malika-Salaam said.

Afterward, an open-mike session will be held. Both students and non-students can sign up to read their own poetry by calling 962-7264.

No time limit is set for how long amateur poets can read, Malika-Salaam said.

"When you give people a time limit, they come with a big pile of papers to make sure they fill the time," she said. "This keeps it from getting boring."

Earlier in the day, the Union will host three panel discussions and a poetry workshop.

The first panel will examine the influence of jazz on poetry. The conference's other panels will be "Hip Hop as the

New American Poetry" and a "Meet the Artist" panel headlined by Rucker.

Poet Jaki Shelton Green will facilitate the workshop. Unlike last year, this year's workshop is geared toward students who have already begun writing poetry. It will focus on the creative process, emphasizing the process of writing to music.

"It's just an instructional thing," Malika-Salaam said. "People can share their stuff at the end of it."

The workshop begins at 3 p.m. Saturday. Registration for the panels and workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the BCC.

The poetry reading costs \$3 in advance or \$5 at

the door. Tickets may be purchased at the Union box office, the Duke University box office and the N.C. Central University box office.

All other conference activities are free of charge, and all conference activities are open to the public.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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NADERA MALIKA-SALAAM
BCC Assistant Program Coordinator

German Teens Get 1st Glimpse Of America Through Program

By SABINE HIRSCHAUER
Staff Writer

Marching down Airport Road in the drizzling rain, German exchange students excitedly chattered about their first meeting with the town's mayor.

Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf met Thursday morning at Chapel Hill Town Hall with a group of newly arrived German exchange students, sharing with them first impressions of the town that will become their home for the next three weeks.

Dressed in baggy clothes similar to the fashions of American teenagers, the 16- to 18-year-old students quizzed Waldorf about a variety of questions ranging from the subject of Jesse Helms, the death penalty, violence, and the American two-party system.

"I am a Democrat," Waldorf said, in answer to a student's question as to which party she belonged. "But the local government is completely nonpartisan."

The students seemed intimidated speaking English at first, but they left Waldorf a bit stunned when one student mentioned he heard in Germany that U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms was a racist. "Oh, he is awful," she said. "But our other

senator, Edwards, is just the opposite."

The students said America was still seen as the land of opportunity. "Everybody wants to come to America," said Madika Frey, a 17-year-old junior. "Our clothing, music, food - everything is totally influenced by America."

The students said one of the most significant differences between German and American schools was that sports and nonacademic classes played a larger part in the U.S. school system.

"At home, we have maybe one or two hours of sports a week," said 18-year-old senior Sarah Christ. "But here, the students grow up with sports being a big part of their everyday school life."

Kathrin Reuther, 17, said she was a little scared coming over because of the Columbine shooting. "We don't have police officers at our school."

For most of the students - who will spend the next three weeks with Chapel Hill host families - this was their first time in the United States, which they said seemed so far from home.

"I came first of all because of the language and to get to know other people," Christ said.

Marilyn Metzler, a German teacher and chairwoman of the foreign language

department at Chapel Hill High School, organized the student exchange with German colleague Rainer Wagner, who teaches English at the Kastellaun Gymnasium. Kastellaun is a community of 5,000 people in the heart of Germany.

"We met in Berlin two years ago and then called each other later to talk about getting this exchange program together," Wagner said.

Wagner said he was optimistic about the future of the program, which was also supported by the German-American Partnership Program. "We see this as a long-term exchange program, and we will organize that every year a group of students visits each other," Wagner said.

Students from Chapel Hill High School will fly across the Atlantic in June to see their new friends from Kastellaun and to visit the gymnasium.

The visiting students will also sightsee in Washington, D.C., and visit New York City before leaving.

"It is very easy to get to know people here," said 17-year-old Max Schoen with a smile. "This place is really cool."

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