

UNC Students Honor Yom Kippur

BY ERIC MEEHAN
Staff Writer

A small group of Jewish students gathered Monday night in the Student Union to share their convictions about forgiveness in observance of Yom Kippur.

Jewish leaders from various chapters of N.C. Hillel, which works to create a richer Jewish life on campuses, joined the students in the contemplative discussion.

Jewish students used the study to express their thoughts about forgiveness and hear others' views.

Mike Zarkin, program director of the Triad N.C. Hillel, began the study by reading Psalm 27, which is often read on Yom Kippur, and asking students what

they felt it meant.

"There is nothing in it about forgiveness, about loss," Zarkin said. He asked the group what significance the reading held on Yom Kippur, which translates to the Day of Atonement.

The day is a time when followers of the Jewish faith traditionally demonstrate repentance and try to make amends for the sins of the past year.

Traditionally, Jews are not supposed to work, use cosmetics or deodorant, wash, wear leather shoes, engage in sexual relations or eat and drink on Yom Kippur.

The holiday is a 25-hour fast beginning the hour before sunset on the evening before Yom Kippur.

Some students said following the restrictions of Yom Kippur at UNC can

prove challenging to Jews because it is a regular school day for virtually everyone else on campus.

"Lenoir Dining Hall closes before the fast ends. It's pretty absurd," said David Chapman, a sophomore from Chicago. "Jewish students who paid for a meal don't get to use it."

Some Jewish students also were opposed to attending classes Monday for religious reasons.

Freshman Jon Saks from Rockville, Md., said, "(Not having the day off) keeps people away who want to come to service."

Although some Jewish students disagreed with UNC's policy of having class on Yom Kippur, Chapman said, "The professors are generally accommodating."

Or Mars, executive director of N.C. Hillel: Jewish Life, stressed that UNC was helpful in working with the Jewish community.

"The school was a huge help in allowing us to have this service," Mars said.

"They were very accommodating. (The) Student Union was great, giving us space while our building is under construction."

Mars said the services held Monday night for Jews provided the necessary venue for their spiritual needs.

"It was a wonderful day," he said. "After Yom Kippur, I feel like I walk away refreshed."

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

Seawell Leader Earns Principal of Year Title

BY ALDESHA GORE
Staff Writer

After seven years of service in district schools, Deshera Mack has received recognition as the 2000-01 Principal of the Year.

Principals in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools unanimously chose Mack, principal of Seawell Elementary School, for the honor.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools spokeswoman Kim Hoke said Mack's leadership at Seawell made her an outstanding candidate for the award.

"One of Deshera's many important leadership positions includes the Minority Achievement Committee that consists of a group of teachers, principals and parents who plan to increase achievement of minority students," Hoke said.

The annual Principal of the Year award is open to all principals in the school district, with final selection falling to area principals themselves.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education member Elizabeth Carter said area principals do a remarkable job dealing with 600-plus students, staff and parents each day, but Mack seems to have gone the extra mile.

"Deshera Mack adores her school," Carter said. "She is not only an administrator to the students but also a teacher. She loves her administration, staff, stu-

dents and people overall."

Mack, who has worked in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system since 1993, also has received other awards, including one for outstanding work in education by the Inter-Denominational Ministerial Alliance.

Mack said she hopes others will see the award as a symbol of her commitment to success for students, staff and the district as a whole.

As part of that commitment, Mack continues to set goals for improved teacher and student performance at Seawell.

"My goals are that all students here are successful and that it is also a safe place for both students and staff," she said.

"I want the school to continue its strive for excellence, increase parental involvement and encourage teachers to get national certification bonds."

Mack will next compete on the regional level for the Principal of the Year award. Hoke said she is confident Mack will bring a high standard of competition to the regional award level.

"She is an outstanding contributor to education on the district and school level," she said.

"Honor is well deserved to Ms. Mack."

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Campus Calendar

Today

noon - Susan Tiff, co-author of the biography "The Trust: The Private and Powerful Family Behind The New York Times" and Duke University professor, will discuss the effect of newspaper ownership on content.

The free, public lecture will be held in the Freedom Forum Conference Center on the third floor of Carroll Hall.

3 p.m. - The Center for Healthy Student Behavior will sponsor a cholesterol information table at the Student Recreation Center this week in honor of Cholesterol Awareness Month.

To speak individually to a dietitian, call 966-6586 for an appointment.

7:30 p.m. - Lois Gibbs, an environmental activist from Love Canal, N.Y., and founder of the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice will speak in the Union Auditorium.

8 p.m. - The UNC Jazz Lab Band

and Jazz Lab Band will open a series of six free concerts with traditional and contemporary big band music in Hill Hall Auditorium.

Wednesday

7 p.m. - The North Carolina Public Policy Symposium will present a discussion with candidates for Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, featuring Chief Justice Henry Frye and Justice I. Beverly Lake.

John Jernigan, former president of the North Carolina Bar Association, will serve as moderator. The symposium will take place in the rotunda of the UNC Law School. A reception will follow the discussion.

SHOOTING

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Counselors met with cheerleaders and football players Monday in separate groups to address students' feelings. Officer John Huegerich from the Chapel Hill Crisis Unit was present to brief students on known facts from Friday night's incident.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education members said they will also examine tighter security measures at their next meeting.

"I am certain it will be a topic we will want to discuss (at the next meeting)," said school board member Roger Waldon. "As community members, we are all disappointed, surprised and sad it happened, but grateful that no one was seriously hurt. We are disappointed that it disrupted what was a very important part of school."

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STUDENTS

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wouldn't have been an option." Students' conflicts started after the fast began at sundown Sunday.

Liz Kistin, a freshman from New Mexico, stayed up until 3 a.m. Monday morning writing a paper, which she turned in moments before skipping two classes to attend the morning service.

"I've never lived in a large Jewish community before," she said. "Making the choice to stop and pause, deciding to take a break, has always been a big part of the holidays for me."

Osofsky's holiday began with a few extra minutes of sleep, gained by sacrificing showering, brushing her teeth and eating breakfast, acts given up for Yom Kippur. Osofsky arrived at a 10 a.m. service in the Student Union dressed for-

HOLIDAY

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get days off," he said. "We received an update from the chancellor a few days ago to remind us of the holiday."

Turner said there should be more

allowances for religious holidays.

"Personally, I believe we should be able to observe," he said. "Professionally, I think we should urge colleges to do the same."

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mally but simply, with little desire to explain the reasons behind her plain appearance. "I almost (tell people) but then realize it doesn't matter," she said. "My health and happiness are more important."

By 3 p.m., Osofsky had changed into sweats, with the effects of hunger wearing on her demeanor.

"I'm just out of it," she said, visibly fighting fatigue. "I really shouldn't be thinking of myself, but all I can think about is breaking the fast and what kinds of foods I'm going to eat."

Osofsky broke the fast at about 7:20 p.m. along with the rest of the Jewish community.

But Kistin had little time to enjoy her meal before club soccer practice began at 8 p.m.

Willner had to alter his academic commitments on the holiday by cutting his exam study session short to join his

friends in breaking the fast.

But by this time, Lenoir Dining Hall had closed, and Willner joined Meier and Chapman at Top of the Hill to feast.

"I had to leave (the study session) because I was starving," Willner said over his long-awaited steak dinner.

Revived by their meal, the students recognized that their hardships were shared by other faiths in the UNC community. "There's a lot of general ignorance of the Jewish faith, but I'm sure there's more ignorance of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.," Chapman said.

Trials endured throughout the day were put into perspective by thoughts of fellow Jews outside of the United States.

Osofsky said, "I'm just glad we don't have to pray in hiding, like Jews in other parts of the world."

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