

9/11 Committee Focuses On Benefits

The committee is discussing an American Red Cross chapter, a benefit concert and a care package drive.

By BRAD CHIASSON AND JEFF SILVER
Staff Writers

While UNC students try to establish a sense of normalcy after the Sept. 11 attacks, a Campus Y group is working to make sure they don't forget the devastation.

The 9/11 Relief Committee, organized shortly after the attacks, meets weekly to formulate ideas to benefit the campus community and the world.

The committee's ultimate goal is to establish a chapter of the American Red Cross at the University. "It will provide

a more direct link to the students," said Raj Panjabi, Campus Y co-president. Panjabi said Maneesha Agarwal, who is leading the 9/11 Relief Committee, currently is in discussion with the director of the Orange County chapter about how the goal can be accomplished.

Agarwal said the committee also hopes to promote the Points for Pints contest. The contest is between universities to see which can collect the most blood. She said the committee hopes to organize a few blood drives in the upcoming months.

Other goals of the committee include organizing a benefit concert and a care package drive for the victims of the attacks.

Agarwal said the care package drive should be up and running by the end of November in order to capitalize on the holiday spirit.

Agarwal said the committee will try

to target freshmen and give them the chance to make a positive contribution to society. She said this could help overcome a drop in volunteerism the committee is expecting.

"People are always willing to help, but the level of time commitment has gone down since Sept. 11," she said. "People will think it's a somber affair to help out."

Agarwal said she is confident the committee will overcome these issues in the long run. "I think it can be really successful," she said.

The committee also organized, in conjunction with the Young Democrats, the sale of the "UNC for USA" T-shirts. Half of the proceeds will go to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a group working to protect Muslim-Americans from hate crimes.

The other half will benefit the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund

that will distribute college scholarships to children whose parents were affected in Washington, D.C., New York and Pennsylvania.

The \$10 T-shirts can be purchased at the Campus Y building or by contacting Agarwal.

Also in the works is an event about bioterrorism that will educate students about the threat and allow them to voice their concerns. The committee plans to stage the conference in the next two weeks.

The Campus Y also is distributing "Islam Means Peace" buttons to continue the efforts that began with the Islamic solidarity gathering Oct. 10. Both the gathering and the buttons were meant to better educate people about the Muslim religion.

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

Legislators Resist Sprinkler Laws

U.S. senators have had no success with their bill to require that sprinklers be placed in all residence halls.

By CHASE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Five years after a fire at a UNC fraternity house that claimed the lives of five students, neither the N.C. General Assembly nor the U.S. Congress has passed legislation requiring fire sprinklers on campuses.

Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and others have introduced legislation in Congress to install fire sprinklers in all campus residence halls.

But their efforts have been unsuccessful.

The fire sprinkler legislation would provide \$100 million in matching federal funds to encourage universities to install sprinkler systems.

Opponents of the bill argue that fire regulations should be left to state governments, and universities should retain autonomy from the federal government.

Some states have instituted mandatory sprinkler requirements for all universities after a residence hall fire claimed the lives of students.

New Jersey legislation now requires all universities to install sprinkler heads in key places after a Seton Hall University had a fire that killed three students and injured 58 others in 2000.

Jeff Landry, Seton Hall associate director of housing and residential life, said the university now has sprinkler heads installed in all bedrooms, bathrooms, closets and hallways on campus.

"Parents and students feel better about the school and people certainly are more comfortable here," Landry said.

But New Jersey is one of the few states to have sprinkler requirements at all.

Michael Briggs, press secretary for Edwards, said legislation has been re-proposed by Edwards this session after it was defeated in 2000.

Briggs said Edwards is hopeful and determined to get legislation passed.

"We believe that in this day and age, with our sons and daughters in this country, there is a national interest to protect our students as much as possible," Briggs said.

But Landry said the national mood had changed and people are not as concerned about fires in residence halls as they once were.

"(Concern has) worn off now after the first six to 10 months; it's not in the forefront of people's minds anymore," he said.

Five years ago, the General Assembly provided \$800,000 for UNC-Chapel Hill to add sprinkler systems to residence halls and issued a mandate encouraging schools to phase in the systems.

But Larry Hicks, associate director of residential education at UNC, said the mandate was not adequate and only provided 10 percent of the funds required to add fire sprinkler systems to all UNC residence halls.

As state and national governments continue to debate proposed legislation, schools like UNC have begun plans of their own.

Hicks said the university has a plan to install sprinkler systems in all UNC residence halls by 2010.

The renovations are projected to cost \$20 million and will be funded primarily by UNC housing fees.

Sue Kitchen, UNC vice chancellor for student affairs, said the plan is based on the need of different residence halls.

"We've tried to prioritize where the sprinklers are most needed and acted accordingly," Kitchen said.

The plan prioritizes residence halls based on factors such as wooden roofs or the structure of the building.

Hicks said another important consideration is renovating residence halls while still maintaining full enrollment.

"Our biggest issue is logistics - trying to stage this while people are living in halls," he said.

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

"We believe that in this day and age ... there is a national interest to protect our students as much as possible."

MICHAEL BRIGGS

Sen. John Edwards' Press Secretary

Program Scores Funding, Remains Afloat

The administration recently gave the Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life \$145,000.

By NATHAN COLETTA
Staff Writer

UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life found alternative sources of funding last week, allowing the program to continue despite having its funding cut from the state budget.

The program, which helps elected officials and members of the media gain a better understanding of Southern political issues and trends, received \$145,000 from the UNC offices of the chancellor and provost.

The money will fund the program for the next fiscal year, covering mostly

salaries and operating expenses.

N.C. legislators completely eliminated the program's \$225,000 budget but stipulated that the program could continue if it found alternative sources of funding.

The cut was one of several made to the University in the biennial budget as legislators struggled for months to build a budget and the state's economy continued to decline.

UNC Associate Provost Steve Allred said the University always has supported the program and wanted it to continue because the University is one of the leading forces of change in the South.

"The program is essentially a form of public service to inform people about various Southern issues," Allred said.

Ferrell Guillory, the program's director, said he was grateful that the legisla-

ture, although it cut the program's funding, stated specifically that the program could continue to operate with alternative funding. "If we were forced to shut down, it would have been very hard to start up again," he said.

Guillory said he thinks it is important to continue the program because of UNC's long tradition of active participation in Southern political issues.

"Carolina has served as a leading, intellectual institution in the South, and this program is designed to connect the University with opinion leaders and politicians in the South," he said.

Guillory added that the University's contribution, along with a grant received three years ago from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, will allow the program to continue publishing SouthNow, a twice-a-year public policy journal.

The program's Web site,

<http://www.SouthNow.org>, offers an online version of the journal, as well as N.C. DataNet, a publication that analyzes trends in N.C. government and politics.

Guillory said he never considered shutting down the program, even after the General Assembly eliminated funding.

Guillory said he kept working to make sure the program would be maintained.

He added that in the end, he is happy the program is still up and running. "We've had to tighten our belt," he said.

"We can't do everything we would like to because of the budget shortfall, but we are delighted to be able to continue."

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

Operation Smile Opens New Chapter at UNC

By MEREDITH NICHOLSON
Staff Writer

Students at the School of Medicine have founded the first Operation Smile Medical Student Association in North Carolina.

Operation Smile is a private, non-profit volunteer medical services organization providing reconstructive surgery and related health care to children and young adults in developing countries and in the United States, said Janelle Harrell, president of the campus chapter of Operation Smile.

These services are offered free or at extremely reduced prices.

Operation Smile also provides education and training throughout the world to physicians and other health care professionals to achieve long-term self-sufficiency, Harrell said.

The organization works both domestically and in 20 countries abroad and works mainly with cleft palates and cleft

lips, said Jennifer Solms, vice president of the campus chapter. Operation Smile currently operates clinics in Charlotte and Winston-Salem, Solms said. "We hope to hook up with doctors there to shadow in these operations," she said.

Harrell said they hope to open an undergraduate chapter at UNC within the next couple of years to help local people with the deformities. Until then the group will focus on education and fund raising.

The undergraduate chapter mainly would be involved in fund raising and patient transport to the Charlotte and Winston-Salem clinics. Undergraduate students can apply to be youth volunteers on Operation Smile missions, Solms said.

Harrell said she decided to start a chapter at UNC because she wanted to help children with facial deformities, many of which can be fixed with simple, inexpensive surgeries.

"A smile is something we take for granted," she said. "But these children can't eat or speak because of a simple deformity."

Operation Smile and the Surgery Interest Group will be hosting a yard sale and supply drive Wednesday to benefit Operation Smile. The sale will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. beside Berryhill Hall.

Individuals or organizations pay \$10 to reserve a table where they can sell their belongings. Supplies such as sample-size hygiene products, mirrors, combs and toys will be collected as well,

Solms said.

Eventually, members of the campus chapter plan to open a clinic in the new Children's Hospital, Solms said.


She said doctors on the UNC Hospitals Cranio-Facial team have agreed to allow students involved in Operation Smile to shadow them during operations.

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STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Halloween Party Volunteer Opportunity

Come volunteer at the GAA Halloween Party today at the Union Cabaret



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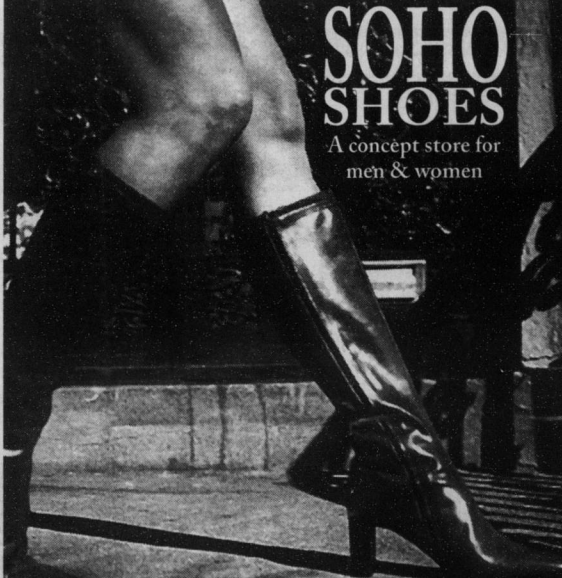
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