school overcrowding

BY SARA LEWKOWICZ

City

Carrboro

two high schools

school by January.

Enrollment in Chapel Hill-

increased by almost 300 students

in the past year, with 196 of the

new students enrolled in the area's

System enrollment has risen to 10,653 students, 297 more than

Chapel Hill High School is 17

To offset overcrowding, each

percent over capacity, and East Chapel Hill High School is 5 per-

high school has added four mobile

classrooms. Four more mobile

classrooms will be added to each

increase each school's capacity

through the end of the decade.

problem seem easier to define than

causes for the increase. Officials

disagree as to why almost 70 percent of the system's growth occurred at the high school level.

Pedersen said he believes that the difference in enrollment levels

follow demographics. Several years ago, he said, there was a large influx

of elementary school students.

But Steve Scroggs, CHCCS

assistant superintendent for sup-

port services, said the burgeoning

high school enrollment is attrib

schools

# Advocates aim to end apathy Officials address local

#### New group to focus on honor, ethics

**BY MEGAN SEROW** 

Honor and Integrity Week ended Friday, but a new group of students hopes to keep the issues at the forefront of student life

throughout the year. Carolina Advocates for Honor is a new organization formed to reverse apathy toward the Honor

It aims to inform students, faculty and staff about the new changes in the Honor Code and raise awareness concerning ethics and honor.

The group has about 15 members but is looking to expand to

The advocates were all asked to join because of their interest in or connection with the Honor Court, but advocate leaders are looking for a diverse section of students outside the Honor Court.

Advocates participated in many events during Honor and Integrity

Week last week.

The group's plan for the semes-ter involves talking to groups or classes who request them, said Student Attorney General Jonathan Slain.

"We want to inform everyone about changes in the organization of the honor system," Slain said. He pointed out that some stu-

dents mistakenly view the Honor Code only as a way to get students in trouble. But rather than focus on what students can't do, advocates are working to create more trust between professors and stu-

"We've been working with faculty on issues like these," said Mela Kirkpatrick, a senior advocate who also is chairwoman of the UNC Undergraduate Honor Court. 'We're all under the Honor Code at all times.

She and Slain said that the Honor Code should work both ways and that it is one of the goals



Student Attorney General Jonathan Slain (left) and Chairwoman of the Honor Court Mela Kirkpatrick (right) lead "dorm storming" Wednesday.

of Carolina Advocates for Honor. Though some of the events last week created awareness for the advocates, others, such as "Storm the Dorm" on Wednesday night, were not as successful.

The advocates hoped for a

strong turnout, but few students participated. Students in Hinton James Residence Hall were pulled from the lobby couches and as they waited for elevators in order to participate in the discussion. With HonorCarolina —

long initiative to promote honor and integrity on campus — still underway, Slain and Marc Hennes, outreach coordinator for HonorCarolina, hope to keep students and faculty aware of the honor system throughout cam-

Advocate leaders said they want to pair the current members who are experienced with the UNC honor system with average stu-

dents to gain a wider opinion.

Hennes said, "We're looking for people who are interested in the issues and who have a passion for ethics and honor.'

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

"That's where (Pedersen) and I disagree," Scroggs said. "The average price of a house in Chapel Hill is \$320,000. If I'm a 28-year-old with a 5-year-old kid, can I afford to buy a house in Chapel Hill?'

City schools are not the only ones dealing with overcrowding. Enrollment in Orange County Schools has increased from 6,255 last year to 6,506.

Most of the overcrowding in the county system has occurred in its middle schools, said Anne D'Annunzio, spokeswoman for the county school district. She said proponents of a merger between the two area systems have used these facts to bolster their argument.

"Some of the talk was, if we were to merge, our high schools could The units are expected to more than 200 students, said Neil help with their high school over Pedersen, CHCCS superintendent.
Plans for adding a third high crowding, and vice-versa, D'Annunzio said.

school to the district have been approved recently by the Orange Pro-merger activists say consolidation between the two systems ounty Board of Commissioners. Pedersen said the new high would create less of a financial bur-den than building new schools. school likely will be able to handle growth in high school enrollment

But while a merger might delay new school construction for a few years, enrollment will continue to increase, and eventually new schools would be necessary, Solutions to the overcrowding

Scroggs said. He asserted that, with the exception of the Robeson County consolidation of five years ago, school system mergers in the state have been fiscal failures.

'No school system in the history of North Carolina that has merged has saved money," Scroggs said. "Anyone who says 'we need to merge to save money is barking up the wrong tree.

> Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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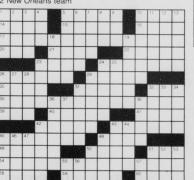
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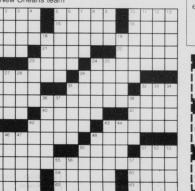
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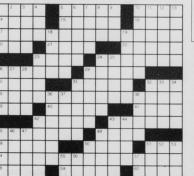




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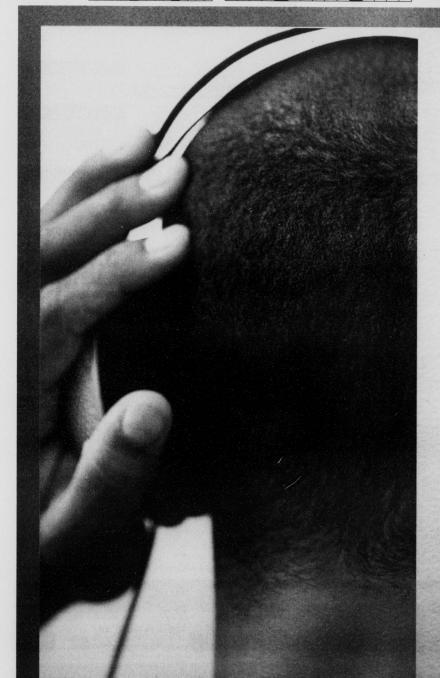
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