

# Shelter to close its doors at start of warm weather

BY MEREDITH MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

As temperatures warmed Thursday, some of the area's homeless still were recovering from this week's winter weather in the lounge of the Inter-Faith Council shelter on 100 W. Rosemary St.

As others dozed in front of the television, Tommy Powell was finding his way back inside from the 60-degree weather.

Powell, unemployed since November, said he came to IFC two months ago because he needed a place to live as temperatures dropped below freezing. "It beats staying out on the street, and everyone here is trying to find a place to go," Powell said.

The IFC's all-male shelter usually sees an increase in its occupancy during the winter months.

But in April, those in need of

shelter will have to look elsewhere. IFC will close for exterior renovations like replacing windows, doors, roof repairs and brick resurfacing.

The center has been planning how to relocate those who live in the shelter during the construction process, said IFC Executive Director Chris Moran. IFC officials said they are concerned with finding transportation for the men who occupy the shelter and with locating more volunteers.

During the renovations, Moran said St. Joseph Christian Methodist Episcopal, located at 510 W. Rosemary St., will provide meals for the homeless. He said there are 10 congregations in the Chapel Hill community that have agreed to house 24 men for two-week intervals. "We want this to be a community process," he said.

The municipal building where the IFC is located is owned by the Town of Chapel Hill, who will pay for the costs of construction. The IFC leases the building for a small fee.

The bidding for contractors interested in the exterior renovation project will end Thursday at 3 p.m., when bids will be opened to the public. The Chapel Hill Town Council will then review the bids and a contractor will be selected at a later date.

A pre-bid conference was held

Feb. 12 at the IFC shelter where guidelines for the project were presented to an audience of nine interested contractors.

"The building is in need of repair," said Coco Hall, purchasing coordinator at the Chapel Hill Town Hall, adding that the goal of the renovation project is "to make the building more attractive and provide repairs." She said the project is estimated to cost more than \$300,000.

The IFC has occupied the municipal building since 1985 and plans to move back into the facility after renovations are complete. Moran said that the town has been generous to the IFC and there has been a joint partnership, but perhaps the shelter may have outlived its time at the building.

"The space and interior will remain the same," he said, adding that exterior renovations will not help the center accommodate more people.

Moran said that with the increase in occupants this winter compared to the same time last year, additional space is needed to serve the community.

"Our numbers are definitely up from last year," said "There needs to be a better facility to house homeless men."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

BY DAN SCHWIND

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Orange County civil liberties activists are working to make a resolution opposing the USA PATRIOT Act component of the official platform of the county's Democratic Party.

The Orange County Bill of Rights Defense committee agreed at a meeting Thursday to begin rallying support for the resolution before local Democratic precincts hold their meetings March 9.

Committee member Margaret Misch said taking the resolution to precinct meetings would help gather momentum before the county's Democratic convention April 17.

"I think it's up to people in the precincts to decide if they like this," she said. "The longest (clauses in the resolution) might hit the fan in some places ... but in the process, they'll be educated."

The committee is considering a resolution similar to one passed last month by the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers.

The resolution specifically lists those constitutional amendments the organization feels are threatened by the anti-terrorism act and lists what sections of the act the NCATL says should be eliminated.

Committee members said they chose to use the NCATL's resolution as a basis because of the strength of the language in the resolution and felt that it was strengthened by the fact that it was created by a local activist group.

"That's key that (the group is from) North Carolina," said committee member Lucy Lewis. "And it's people that know about the law."

The USA PATRIOT Act was one of several acts approved by the U.S. Congress in the days following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It granted law enforcement officials new authorities regarding surveillance, eavesdropping and intelligence gathering.

Since then, three states and 255 municipalities have passed resolutions and ordinances condemning the act.

Chapel Hill joined that list in October when the Chapel Hill Town Council voted unanimously to approve a similar resolution presented by the committee. The Town Council became the third local governing body to do so, joining the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

The committee also is taking aim at adding Hillsborough to that list. "(People) might think we've passed Chapel Hill and Carrboro and Orange County and that's it," Lewis said. "But we still have work to do."

Committee members have so far gathered only about 20 signatures from residents for the petition for the Hillsborough Civil Liberties Initiative, but they hope to gather more names at next month's precinct meetings.

"Everyone should be concerned about losing his or her rights," Misch said.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## Benefit show builds support

BY TANNER SLAYDEN

STAFF WRITER

Raising \$30,000 and building a house in five days might seem like unreachable goals.

But to Habitat for Humanity, these goals are just an excuse to throw a party.

As part of its Blitz Build Campaign, Habitat will be hosting a benefit concert to raise money to fund its next project.

"Our goal is to raise enough money to build a house next spring semester in five days," said organizer Avni Patel. "Hopefully, people will come out and enjoy our show."

The benefit concert will feature 10 performers that make a lot of noise on campus.

"All of these UNC acts draw a big

IF YOU GO

Date: Sunday, Feb. 22

Time: 8 to 10 p.m.

Location: Great Hall of the Student Union

Info: <http://habitat.unc.edu>

crowd," said Brandon McAdams, a member of Habitat. "We are hoping to sell out the venue."

Performers include a cappella groups, dance ensembles and comedy companies, all of whom have helped the cause by volunteering their time and talent.

The show will attempt to do more than just entertain, though. The improv comedy troupe ChiPs will serve as master of ceremonies for the concert and, aside from providing comic relief, will provide information about Habitat, which does more than just build houses.

"We send teams out to Honduras and Thailand, and we have a strong tutoring program," Patel said. "We also want people to know about the people who gain the houses we build."

The individuals who move into these houses help on the projects

and have jobs in the community. Last semester, one of UNC's bus drivers inherited a house.

To help as many people as possible, the organization will be hosting other events to raise funds.

Patel noted an April car wash, a 5K run and Penny War at Granville Towers as standout events.

These activities, combined with the concert, which the service club hopes to make an annual event, are also ways to help raise awareness about Habitat around campus.

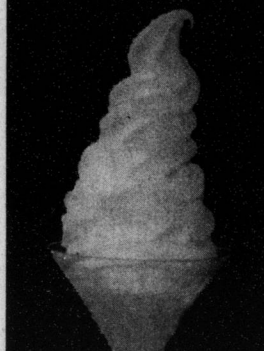
"This is an opportunity for students to get involved and help out, and people will see what they can do if they go to our educational table at the show," Patel said.

Attendants will also get to meet Habitat's wealth of volunteers.

"This organization shows that college kids on campus aren't apathetic. UNC students are willing to show support toward a great cause," McAdams said. "That's why our chapter is considered one of the best in the nation."

Contact the ACE Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

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**Application materials due February 27, 2004**

Questions, contact LaTika Webster at 966-5571 or [ltwebste@email.unc.edu](mailto:ltwebste@email.unc.edu)

#### Office Manager (OM)

##### Responsibilities include

- Managing the day-to-day operations at a residential community office
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- Providing 75% of time is spent providing front line customer service at the community desk

##### Benefits include

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**Application materials due February 23, 2004**

Questions, contact Brian Jones at 962-1680 or [brijones@email.unc.edu](mailto:brijones@email.unc.edu)

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