

# Leaders make time for scouting

BY JACQUELINE BRILL  
STAFF WRITER

At 6:45 p.m. Monday, the voices of 8 and 9-year-old girls, many of whom wore brown vests dotted with colorful patches, rang through the art room at Mary Scroggs Elementary School.

The girls were eager to discover the purpose of the paper bags, construction paper and plates of paint UNC students McKenzie Thompson, Anna Cunningham and Melissa Church had prepared.

The three women are leaders of Girl Scout Troop 1402, which has about a dozen members from the Chapel Hill area. On Monday, they enjoyed a rare March meeting that didn't involve Thin Mints, Peanut Butter Patties or Caramel deLites.

"Tonight, we're earning our 'Puppets, Dolls and Plays' badge," explained Cunningham, a sophomore history and Spanish major.

"We try to earn a badge or two at every meeting, and then at the end of a semester or quarter, we have a ceremony with their parents and pass them all out," Cunningham said as she helped a few of the girls prepare their paper bag puppets.

In February, the troop focused on cookie sales, an endeavor in which the Brownie Girl Scouts and Junior Girl Scouts found it most enjoyable to have college-age leaders.

"I liked that we got to sell cookies

in their dorms," said Katie Marshall, a 9-year-old third-grader.

Other scouts also have high opinions of their UNC leaders. "They're very friendly, and we do fun stuff," said Julia Bienstock, also 9.

"We made dolls, went to Brownie Fun Day and pretended to make a camping tent, but when we went in it collapsed on us," she said and laughed. Her fellow scouts giggled as they recalled the incident.

Julia's mother, Rachelle, also expressed fondness for her daughter's leaders. "It's really neat that they're doing this," Bienstock said. "Most troop leaders are moms, so it's really nice for them to take the time out to do this when they could be just hanging out."

The troop started in September when Thompson, also a sophomore and the only one of the students with Girl Scout experience, decided that she and Cunningham, her roommate, needed to get involved.

"We really just sat around our freshman year, so we were looking for something to do," said Thompson, who participated in a troop throughout high school, earning a Gold Award, denoting the highest level of achievement. "I wanted to do this because I was a Girl Scout, and it was a lot of fun."

Leading a troop requires a moderate time commitment but can occasionally get more hectic, espe-



DTH/JESSICA RUSSELL

Girl Scout Julia Bienstock, 9, paints the cheek of troop leader, UNC sophomore McKenzie Thompson, at their weekly troop meeting Monday.

cially during cookie time.

"Sometimes it's just the weekly meeting, but last Saturday we took them to Brownie Fun Day at Camp Mary Atkinson and then went straight to selling cookies," Thompson said. "I was gone from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m."

The troop has been selling cookies at Wal-Mart, in neighborhoods and in the dorms.

In addition to assisting with cookie sales and paper bag puppets, Thompson, Cunningham and Church also have taken the Junior Girl Scouts, those in grades fourth

through sixth, to a high ropes course. They hope to go on a camping trip later in the spring after finishing all the required certifications.

Thompson, also a fitness instructor at the Student Recreation Center, is trying to plan an aerobics class for the girls at the SRC.

For now, both scouts and leaders are content selling cookies, making paper bag puppets and painting faces. Thompson said, "It's all just a lot of fun."

Contact the Features Editor at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu).

# Resolution calls for single precinct

Aims to encourage students to vote

BY NORA WARREN  
STAFF WRITER

If you live on campus and have ever tried to vote in a municipal election, you know it's not always easy to get to the voting site.

But the UNC-Chapel Hill Student Congress hopes a new resolution will be a step in the direction of change.

Congress unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday night to support the redistricting of North Carolina voting precincts to include all students living on the UNC-CH campus in a single precinct.

The resolution supports amending the N.C. General Statutes to reconfigure voting boundary lines by June 30, 2005, to make the UNC-CH campus one voting district. This change would allow all students living on campus to vote in on-campus stations.

Members of student government said they hope the availability of voting stations will increase voter turnout in local, state and national elections.

"We're supporting the fact that we think students should have the right to get to the polls," said Jennifer Orr, Student Affairs Committee chairwoman.

Orr, who introduced the resolution to Congress, said she supported the measure on behalf of all students.

"It's getting students motivated to vote," she said.

Currently, students living on campus are broken into six different voting precincts, each with a different polling site. Some of these sites are off campus, making it difficult for students without cars to vote.

Redrawing the voting lines is a state issue, so the N.C. General Assembly is responsible for putting the measure into effect.

But UNC-CH Student Body Vice President Rebekah Burford said passing the resolution to support redistricting is a way to put pressure on state legislators and other influential parties to approve the amendment.

"It's completely legal to do this, and it's something that can be done," she said.

Members of Congress said they hope that the idea of creating one campus precinct will catch on with the 15 other UNC-system schools.

"It's using UNC-CH as a case study," Orr said. "And then suggesting changes for all UNC-system schools."

While members of Congress did not cite specific examples of other universities experiencing similar voting difficulties, they said they are sure other schools are facing similar multiprecinct issues.

"It's appropriate as a flagship university that we do take the lead," said Rep. Parker Wiseman.

Burford said she thinks the response to the student resolution could familiarize lawmakers with UNC-CH's student government.

"I hope it will add to the clout that executive branch research will have on legislators," she said.

Many members of Congress said that one of the obstacles to voting in local and municipal elections is the inaccessibility of voting sites.

As part of a campaign last semester to increase student voter turnout in local elections, UNC-CH Student Body President Matt Tepper organized mass voter registration drives.

Yet, despite the efforts of student government officials, only several hundred students participated in the elections.

"If you're a first-year student who is 18 and really excited about voting, finally, it's really hard to get to a polling site," Burford said.

Orr said she hopes the change would help students to voice their opinions.

"We want to mobilize students to affect change locally and nationally."

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# Shiite holy day ends in Qaida-suspected attack

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KARBALA, Iraq — Simultaneous explosions ripped through crowds of worshippers Tuesday at Shiite Muslim shrines in Baghdad and Karbala, killing at least 143 people on the holiest day on the Shiite calendar, a U.S. general said. It was the bloodiest day since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

A "prime suspect" in the attacks

was al-Qaida-linked militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who U.S. officials claim is trying to start a Sunni-Shiite civil war, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt. In Iran, which lost at least 22 countrymen in the attacks, Iranian vice president Mohammad Ali Abtahi also blamed al-Qaida.

The attacks, a combination of suicide bombings and planted

explosives during the Shiite festival of Ashoura, coincided with a shooting attack on Shiite worshippers in Quetta, Pakistan, that killed at least 42 people and wounded more than 150.

Police in the southern Iraqi city of Basra kept the wave of violence from being bloodier, arresting four would-be suicide bombing suspects.

Monday night, a bomb was defused in the holiest Shiite city, Najaf, officials said.

Tuesday was the climax of the 10-day Ashoura festival. It is the most important period in the Shiite calendar and draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims in

Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and other Shiite communities.

The devastation Tuesday included the work of three suicide bombers who set off explosives in and around Baghdad's Kazimiya shrine, killing 58 and wounding 200, Kimmitt told reporters. In Karbala, at least one suicide attacker blew himself up and pre-set explosives detonated, killing 85 and wounding more than 230, he said.

A fourth suicide bomber whose explosives did not detonate was captured at Kazimiya, and six people were arrested in connection with the attack in Karbala, Kimmitt told reporters in Baghdad.

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If you have any questions, e-mail the Senior Class President, Jovian Irvin at [joviani@email.unc.edu](mailto:joviani@email.unc.edu), or Senior Class VP, Becca Frucht at [rfrucht@email.unc.edu](mailto:rfrucht@email.unc.edu).

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