

Students' protest reflects plight of African nation

BY WILLIAM FONVILLE
STAFF WRITER

Those who caught dinner at Lenoir Dining Hall on Tuesday likely noticed an unusually solemn band of what appeared to be protesters.

A line of students stood under the shadow of trees, peppering the Pit with small specks of candlelight.

The event separated itself from a typical protest because it was a candlelight vigil, orchestrated in complete silence.

More than 20 students, some who arrived together and some of whom were just passing by, all held signs and tiny white candles as they stood with their heads bowed in a semicircle.

Students United for Dafur Awareness Now, a group based out of N.C. Hillel, sponsored the event to not only raise awareness about the organization and the crisis in the Sudan, but also to spark conversation among students.

Since February 2003, when rebel groups in the Dafur region

of the Sudan rose up with accusations of neglect and discrimination against the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum, portions of the Sudan have been ravaged by conflict.

Numbers released in July counted at least 50,000 people who have died; an additional 1.2 million have lost their homes.

Students in SUDAN now are looking to raise awareness of the conflict.

A table was set up in front of the participants that provided additional information about the crisis to better educate those who were interested.

The silent aspect of the vigil prevented an audience from forming, but many students walking by stopped to take a glance at the signs proclaiming messages such as "Stop the genocide!"

"This event is getting something out there that not many people know about," said freshman Nicholas Politte, who viewed the vigil. "It sparked an emotional reaction in me, and I support and

stand with them, even though I'm only one."

As the conclusion of the vigil approached, the sun almost faded into the horizon, but the candles created a solemn glow. True to the spirit of the vigil, the participants never uttered a word and allowed their candles and signs to do the talking.

About 22 students already are participating in SUDAN as the organization makes its debut at the University.

The group is the brainchild of Anna Thompson, a senior anthropology major. She founded the club while interning at N.C. Hillel and was required to start a project that advocates a cause of importance.

"Awareness is vital," said freshman Marie Garlock, a participant in the vigil. "Knowledge is responsibility. I heard people pass by saying that they wished for more info on the Sudan; this initiated dialogue."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Annexation would raise taxes

BY CATHERINE SHAROKY
STAFF WRITER

Residents in communities north-east of the Carrboro town limits could soon face higher taxes.

The communities of Camden, Highlands, Highland North, Highland Meadows, Fox Meadow, Fox Run and portions west of the northern part of Rogers Road could be annexed into the town of Carrboro by Jan. 31, 2006.

Annexation would give the residents access to the public services available through the town but would also force them to pay town taxes, in addition to the Orange County taxes they already pay.

"Right now people being annexed are paying a county tax, a Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district tax and a fire department tax," said John Smith, Orange County tax assessor.

He said a house in Highlands valued at \$316,000 currently would cost a homeowner \$3,618 in taxes as a county resident. The same house, had it been annexed into Carrboro effective Jan. 1, 2004, would have been taxed \$5,671.

But the increase in taxes would come with benefits, said Roy Williford, Carrboro's planning

director. "They'll get all the services that all the other citizens of the town are provided," he said.

Town services include public transportation, fire department response, trash collection, water and sewage lines, recreational facilities and other amenities that Carrboro provides to all its residents.

"The advantages that (annexation) would bring outweighs the taxation," said Robert Campbell, a resident of Rogers Road.

He said annexation would enable children in the area to take advantage of the resources that public transit would provide.

"Our children are isolated if parents aren't available to take them to certain places, where children in the town have access to the bus," Campbell said.

At its Sept. 14 meeting, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen asked town staff to examine the cost of providing transit service into the annexed area.

Carrboro's town line divides the Rogers Road neighborhood. The western section of the community is under consideration for annexation, according to a report on the potential plan.

On Sept. 14, Mark Chilton was the only alderman to vote that the

area annexed to Carrboro should include either all or none of Rogers Road, instead of just the western half of that community.

The other board members voted to continue as planned in including just half of the road in the area to be annexed.

"I've heard from residents out there (on Rogers Road) before that they don't want the neighborhood split," Chilton said.

Residents of the community should decide whether they want to be annexed by Carrboro or Chapel Hill, he said.

"I guess I don't see taking steps to annex part of the neighborhood as the first steps in the process of straightening out where the town line ought to be," Chilton said.

Chilton said that Mayor Mike Nelson of Carrboro is expected to send a letter to Mayor Kevin Foy of Chapel Hill to address annexation of the road by either town.

On Nov. 1, Carrboro will hold a public meeting to discuss the annexation in the Carrboro Century Center. At 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16, the town will hold a public hearing in the same location.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

J-school changes core, advising

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
STAFF WRITER

Officials in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication announced two significant changes to the undergraduate program Monday in an effort to rejuvenate the curriculum.

The school removed Web-based course JOMC 50, "Electronic Information Sources," from the list of classes required for graduation.

The change is effective immediately for all students in the school. The course will count as an elective for students who have completed it.

Tom Bowers, senior associate dean of the school, cited a decreasing need for a mandatory Web-related class as the reason for its removal.

"(The class) started nine years ago when not many people were aware of how to use the Web," Bowers said. "Students today are much more knowledgeable about it."

Deb Aikat, a professor who taught the course, said it's neces-

sary to make these adjustments to keep up with the ever-changing world of mass communication.

"This school is one of the best of its kind in the nation," Aikat said. "We want to lead the pack by constantly re-evaluating our curriculum."

Some students met this alteration with frustration.

"I think it's really unfair because now it doesn't really count for anything for people who took it," said Tyler Stille, a senior journalism major who already took the course.

But officials in the school maintain that students who have taken the class have benefited from it.

"I understand that some students are upset," Aikat said. "The main thing they need to remember is that they did learn something."

The school also announced major changes to the advising process.

Students no longer are required to see advisers to receive their personal identification numbers before registration. Instead, students can

access the numbers through the Student Central Web site and can use the portal to check on their academic progress. Advisers previously used paper worksheets to track students' progress.

This change will create a more efficient process and will bring the school into line with other campus professional schools, officials said.

But officials stressed that the modifications do not mark an end to advising at the school; students still will be assigned an adviser and will be able to make appointments.

In fact, some advisers believe these changes might help the advising process. "By implementing these systems, faculty are able to better serve students," said Jan Yopp, associate dean for undergraduate studies in the school.

"Those students who decide to still come in will get more out of it."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

UCS stresses job fair prep

BY KRISTLE SPELLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Officials at University Career Services said this year's graduates will enter one of the best job markets since 2001.

While the job market varies from field to field, it is less competitive overall than it has been since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, said Marcia Harris, director of UCS.

She predicted that students looking for jobs in the fields of arts and communications will face the most competition.

Those pursuing career paths in pharmacy, education, accounting, business, health fields and service sectors will have the easiest time.

To help students prepare for entering the job market, UCS is hosting a variety of events throughout the fall.

Almost 50 students turned out Tuesday for a seminar entitled "How to Prepare for a Job Fair," in preparation for the two job fairs on campus this week.

Vicki Lotz, associate director of UCS, began the presentation by explaining how students can get the most out of career fairs.

Lotz said students should not be discouraged if the types of compa-

nies they are interested in working for are not represented at the job fairs.

She said certain fields do not recruit and only hire when they have openings. Lotz did assure students that attending UNC gives them a leg up on the competition.

"When employers are recruiting, we are one of the first schools they come to," she said.

Lotz stressed that the organizations at the job fair want students who stop at their tables to be dressed in business attire, have professional attitudes and show enthusiasm.

She said attending the job fair will allow students to be more comfortable in the business world.

Charles Williams, a senior geography major from Fayetteville who attended the seminar, said it was helpful in preparing him to attend the Carolina Career Fair, which will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday in the Smith Center.

"I come to UCS a lot to get a foot in early," he said, noting that the seminar "soothed some anxiety."

Two UCS sponsored campus job fairs will be held this week — Minority Career Night from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Great Hall and the Carolina Career Fair.

More than 50 employers are scheduled to attend the Minority Career Night, and 96 organizations will be available at the Carolina Career Fair.

"It will be a wonderful opportunity for students of all levels, from freshman to graduate students, to talk with many ... employers," Harris said.

Both Harris and Lotz encourage all students to attend the job fairs, regardless of their graduation dates. They suggested that all students bring copies of their résumés and collect business cards.

Officials also encouraged students to visit the UCS Web site at <http://careers.unc.edu> to find out more information about the companies that will be at the job fairs.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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