

# Local teen health group garners national award

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina celebrated its 20th anniversary by receiving an honor from the American Public Health Association.

The center, based in Chapel Hill, was awarded the APHA-GlaxoSmithKline Partnership for Healthy Children Award earlier this month.

The award honors programs that collaborate with the community and work to have an effect on children's health.

"It was truly an honor," said Kay Phillips, president of the coalition, who attended the ceremony in Washington, D.C. "It makes you want to come home and work even harder."

The coalition was chosen because of its efforts to increase the ability of health care providers, professionals and public officials to implement teen pregnancy prevention programs, according to a press release.

Along with the award, the coalition received a plaque and a \$7,000 grant.

This is the first year that the

coalition received the award.

Phillips said it was inspiring to be honored at a national level.

The coalition is the only organization in North Carolina that works specifically with adolescent pregnancy prevention, she added.

The coalition works with 40 county-level prevention programs and develops prevention models to combat teen birth rates.

Phillips said it is important for the state to have an organization that focuses on teens.

The group communicates its mission of preventing adolescent pregnancy by working with newspapers and attending health fairs, she said.

"We are a resource," she said. "Our mission is to help other entities."

Phillips said much of the organization's efforts are focused on the Hispanic population because the state has the nation's highest Hispanic teen birth rates.

The coalition is in the process of translating its informational documents into Spanish to better communicate with the Hispanic population, Phillips said.

She said the center hopes to have its entire Web site translated into Spanish within the next few

months.

The Web site soon will be a place where Hispanic agencies can get information quickly and easily, Phillips said.

The Hispanic population has changed rapidly in North Carolina in the last five years, and the organization is trying to catch up to the demographic changes, she said.

Since 1990, the Hispanic population in Carrboro has risen 936 percent, according to the town of Carrboro Web site.

The coalition continues to look at ways to better serve the Hispanic population and to curb the teen birth rate, she said.

The coalition publishes a reference called the Hispanic Outreach Prevention Portfolio for teen pregnancy program providers who work with youth.

Last fall, the coalition co-sponsored the Southeastern U.S. Symposium on Hispanic Teen Pregnancy. Representatives from eight states and 20 North Carolina counties attended the event, according to a press release.

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

# County taps rights director

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Orange County now has a permanent director for its Department of Human Rights and Relations.

County Manager John Link announced Wednesday that Milan Pham, who has served as acting director of the department since November 2003, now will continue as the permanent director.

As the director of human rights and relations, Pham will be in charge of planning, organizing and directing the county's human relations work, including the enforcement of civil rights ordinances.

The department responds to issues of discrimination and human

relations, as well as supporting the work of the Human Relations Commission and the Commission for Women.

Pham also is charged with developing and implementing community education, training and outreach programs related to civil and human rights.

Pham has a law degree from UNC's School of Law and began work in the department as a civil rights specialist in 1999, according to a press release from Link.

She also was responsible for the development of the first Asian Pacific American advocacy group in North Carolina and has worked

with the Latino community and other underrepresented populations in the community, the release states.

"Milan is an exceptional advocate of respect and equality of all citizens of Orange County," Link stated in the release. "Over the past year, she has demonstrated the strong skills and service orientation necessary to be successful in the position."

Pham began her career as a grassroots organizer and community activist.

In 2003, she was promoted to senior civil rights specialist in the department.

# Iran agrees to nuclear suspension

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA, Austria — Just a day before an international deadline, Iran agreed Sunday not to test any centrifuges as part of a total suspension of nuclear activities that can yield uranium for atomic weapons. Diplomats described the about-face as an effort to avoid possible U.N. sanctions.

Diplomats from the European Union and elsewhere said on condition of anonymity that the International Atomic Energy Agency received a letter from Iran containing a pledge not to test 20 centrifuges during the freeze it agreed to Nov. 7 during negotiations with Britain, France and Germany, who were working on behalf of the European Union.

The pledge appeared to resolve a dispute that threatened to escalate at Monday's IAEA board meet-

ing into consultations on possibly referring Iran to the U.N. Security Council for defying the board. The Security Council could then impose sanctions against Iran.

A senior diplomat with nuclear expertise told The Associated Press that the Iranian pledge appeared to contain no pitfalls and seemed to meet the European demands for full suspension.

Still, the commitment came with strings attached. A government official from a board member country told the AP that France, Germany and Britain had accepted an Iranian demand to further water down the language of a draft resolution they wrote for adoption by the board on ways of policing the suspension.

The text to be adopted Monday now includes a phrase emphasizing that the suspension is not a legal

or binding obligation on Tehran's part, he said.

Under the agreement, the 20 centrifuges Iran had previously wanted exempted would not be placed under IAEA seals but monitored by cameras, diplomats said.

Iran says its program is for generating electricity, but the United States insists that Iran is trying to make nuclear weapons. President Bush has called Iran part of an "axis of evil," along with North Korea and prewar Iraq.

Uranium enrichment does not violate the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that Iran has signed, but for months Tehran has been under pressure to freeze all related activities to ease fears it might want to use the technology to make weapons.

The three European negotiators of the Nov. 7 deal say the freeze also prohibits the Iranians from running centrifuges for research purposes. The centrifuges spin gas into enriched uranium.

The Iranian promise came less than a day before the 35-nation IAEA board was scheduled to reconvene in Vienna over the enrichment suspension.

Iran had no official comment Sunday on the letter. State television and radio in Tehran were still broadcasting earlier statements from a Foreign Ministry spokesman who had vowed that Iran would use the centrifuges for research.

The Foreign Ministry could not be reached for immediate comment.

## CORRECTION

■ Due to a reporting error, the Nov. 24 article "Gas prices won't slow Thanksgiving travelers" states that the average price of gas in North Carolina is \$1.29 per gallon. The price actually is \$1.92 per gallon.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at [cocoletta@email.unc.edu](mailto:cocoletta@email.unc.edu).

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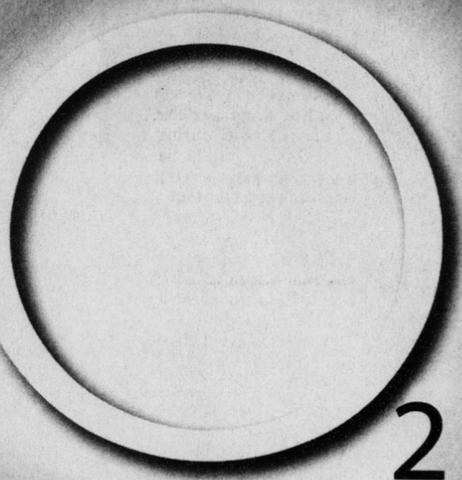
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