

Food drive dates mixed up

Duke pre-emptively urged to action

BY SHARI FELD
STAFF WRITER

Duke University students recently received an e-mail from a Duke student government official urging them to donate canned food so that this year, the Blue Devils could beat the Tar Heels in the annual canned food drive competition.

The e-mail — sent by Ajay Kori, director of student services for Duke's student government — typically would not cause alarm, except that the drive does not officially begin until late February.

Kori blamed the mistake on a miscommunication between the two universities. Duke's current drive has now become part of the Blue Devil Food Drive, and the annual competition with UNC to benefit the Food Bank of North Carolina will begin at the appropriated time.

Kori said he is disappointed that the competition has not yet begun, but the mix-up allows for greater opportunities to help those in need.

"It's a little disheartening that there's no competition," Kori said. "But the fact that it's in February will give us the opportunity to col-

lect even more."

He added that so far, Duke students have exceeded the student government's expectations for the event.

At a meeting Friday for the Beat Hunger, Beat Duke canned food drive, Campus Y officials began planning for the event, which will last from Feb. 28 to March 6, the week before the highly anticipated UNC-Duke basketball game, said Elizabeth Sonntag, co-president of the Campus Y.

Last year, the school that collected the most cans won the competition.

This year, like two years ago, the total weight of the cans will determine the winner. Derwin Dubose, Campus Y co-president, said weight is an easier determinant.

Additionally, the Food Bank of North Carolina always weighs received donations, so it's more convenient to use weight.

Last year, UNC collected 10,366 cans and \$2,250. Because every dollar collected could buy three cans, UNC's total came to 17,116 cans. Duke collected 318 cans and \$4,705.55, giving the school a total

of 14,435 cans. Sonntag said she hopes to get more campus organizations involved with the food drive this year.

"I think this is a project a lot of groups will be interested in working on," Sonntag said.

Dubose said he hopes that more groups will challenge their Duke counterparts. The medical schools from each university, he said, already have challenged each other.

As part of UNC's victory last year, Duke University President Nan Keohane and Student Body President Matthew Slovik had to sport UNC gear for one day.

Sonntag said that a similar arrangement will be in store for this year but that the details have yet to be determined.

Both Sonntag and Dubose said they are excited about this year's challenge.

"I'm so enthusiastic about this project because it shows the dedication our students have for the needs of the people of our state and our community," Sonntag said. "I'm just really inspired by the effort that our students are willing to put into this project."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ALL IN THE THUMBS



DTH/BRADY NASH

Junior Yemi Ojutiku (right) plays against sophomore Colby Wright (center) and junior Labat Yancey in a "GoldenEye Rogue Agent" Xbox tournament Sunday night in Morrison Residence Hall. The tournament, organized by Yancey, was part of a promotion for the release of the game. This event is one of many videogame promotions that occur periodically on campus throughout the school year.

Board mulls school options

BY JENNIFER FAIR
STAFF WRITER

Parents in the Orange County school district soon might get the opportunity to choose where their children go to school.

With the issue of student reassignment looming, the Orange County Board of Education is taking a look at "schools of choice," such as charter, private, home and magnet schools — including year-round schools.

After looking at different schools of choice across the state, the board considered the implications of opening such facilities in the county at a special retreat Saturday morning.

"The most important reason for having these schools is to provide choices," said board member Elizabeth Brown.

But the board recognized that making the decision to open schools of choice will require some thought about how changing one school can have unintended consequences on other schools.

"You can't make a decision with-

out looking at the big picture," said vice chairwoman Brenda Stephens.

In April 2003, Cameron Park Elementary School proposed becoming a math and science magnet school. The school made a presentation to the board Jan. 5.

Superintendent Shirley Carraway said the board liked the proposal but asked the school to put it on hold until after the board could discuss schools of choice in general.

Hillsborough Elementary is the only year-round elementary school in the Orange County district.

Board member Al Hartkopf said that if the district were to open a year-round middle school, as has been discussed, it would need another feeder school.

Hartkopf said that for every two middle school students, there should be three in elementary schools.

Board members said they will need to consult school administrators and parents before making any systemwide changes.

"It shouldn't be something where the board sits in a vacuum and says,

"We're going to do this," said board chairwoman Libbie Hough.

The board considered transportation, maintaining school populations, resources and "brain drains" as challenges to schools of choice.

Board member Dennis Whitting said the parents who have the means to research which school will be best for their children are not the ones who would necessarily benefit the most from schools of choice.

"I'm concerned that too many people who would benefit from opt in/opt out would opt out," he said.

He added that people might opt out of a year-round program to keep the traditional summer or because they have never enrolled at a year-round school before.

The board will further address the implications of schools of choice at a future meeting, Hough said.

"This was a preliminary discussion," she said. "We need to continue discussing this."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Alcohol panel calls for crackdown

BY SAM SHEPARD
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council will respond tonight to the original and new recommendations made by the Committee for Alcohol- and Drug-Free Teenagers to target underage substance abuse.

These recommendations include the need for tougher law enforcement, continued funding for education programs in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and increased funding for more substance-abuse treatment facilities

in Orange County.

"We're looking at becoming a central repository for parental, school or town concerns," said committee creator Dale Pratt-Wilson.

Since the creation of the committee, Pratt-Wilson and other members of the community have addressed the various ways the town can approach this issue.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted a survey of Chapel Hill High School and East Chapel Hill High School in the 2003-04 academic year.

The survey showed that 52 percent of Chapel Hill students consumed alcohol within one month of taking the survey, 8 percentage points higher than the national average.

"We want the issue front and center," Pratt-Wilson said.

She added that she thinks it is necessary to "change the community norms" in dealing with this issue.

Based on information the committee has gathered through three publicly held forums this fall, the committee recommends the hiring of additional Alcohol Law Enforcement agents and the elimination of the off-campus lunch program.

"The more the merrier... There will never be enough," Tony Mills, assistant supervisor for Raleigh's ALE office, said when asked if hiring additional ALE agents would help quell the issue of underage drinking.

But Mills also said he believes that education is an important method of dealing with this problem.

"We'd rather deal with minors in an educational setting than in (a law) enforcement environment," he said.

Chapel Hill police Chief Gregg Jarvis has worked with the committee to help create other recommendations that the council will review Monday.

Jarvis has developed several protocols for Chapel Hill police to help combat the problem.

The protocols include increasing the number and frequency of compliance checks at businesses that sell liquor, conducting full criminal investigations of all teenage parties to identify how the alcohol for the party was acquired, and working closely with bar and club owners to examine admission policies when alcohol is being served.

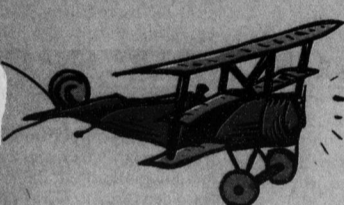
Jarvis also suggested that all parents or guardians of teens who participate in parties where there is alcohol be notified and that a record-keeping system be used to track teens who repeatedly attend or host these parties be improved.

"We want to look to the town as a partner to the committee," Pratt-Wilson said. "We need their help."

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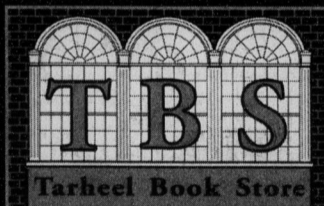
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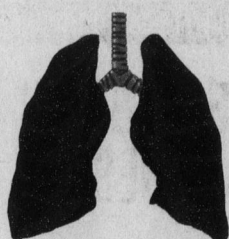
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