

NEW STUDENTS

FROM PAGE 1

the door to these students, everybody's thoughts turned to how can we make this as easy for students as we possibly can."

But difficulties have arisen while building the students' schedules. UNC officials have had trouble contacting advisers from New Orleans universities to determine what classes should transfer.

"We've relied heavily on what the students took at their former schools," Farmer said. "We don't even have a transcript from these students. So we're going from their memory ... of what they've taken."

Advisors worked Tuesday to place students into language classes, said Erika Lindemann, interim director of the Department of Romance Languages.

"The undergraduates need to get into Spanish, but they missed all the placement tests," Lindemann said. "So they didn't know what level of Spanish was appropriate."

Finding housing also has been difficult for the students. The campus already is experiencing a crunch on available space.

Many town residents have offered to house students, and Granville Towers has more than 20 available spaces.

Four students had moved into the Granville Towers by Tuesday. "They just seem to be happy they've got a place to stay," said Dennis Erny, general manager of the towers.

He said each student was welcomed to the building by a gift basket containing bathroom and cleaning supplies, food and candy.

Students have been invited to attend UNC for a semester, although administrators say they are closely observing progress at the New Orleans schools to see if students might need to extend their stays.

During their time here, students will pay tuition and fees at UNC.

"A big question ... that I'm hearing now is around tuition," said Provost Robert Shelton. "We don't have authority to waive tuition fees — that's the Board of Governors."

Shelton said the UNC-system Board of Governors soon will discuss tuition. "So we will wait to hear what they have to say," he said.

Their transition might be rough, but many are confident that students will feel at home on campus.

"Everybody has been gracious," Farmer said. "And in the end I think everybody is glad to be here even under such difficult circumstances."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Area groups respond to Katrina

BY TED STRONG
CITY EDITOR

Angry political reverberations from Hurricane Katrina already are starting, but at the same time communities are pulling together to alleviate the suffering in the devastated area.

In addition to the outpouring of aid that has flowed from the region in recent days, local municipalities have worked to put trained workers on the ground in the affected area.

Orange County Emergency Services sent two telecommunicators to the Gulf Coast to aid first responders, and is working on ways to shelter evacuees displaced by the tragedy.

"We're in the process of looking at what we can do," said Jack Ball, the county's emergency management director.

Steve Newton and Mike Ritze, communications experts, are working 12-hour shifts in Louisiana's St. Tammany Parish, answering phone calls for help. They are trained to determine which agencies to forward the requests to, Ball said.

They left during the Labor Day weekend and will complete a 12- or 14-day tour.

Rather than rush willy-nilly to the affected area, a strategy Ball said would not be particularly helpful, the Federal Emergency Management Agency passes requests to state officials, who then ask counties to let them know about available resources.

A call from FEMA also led to the deployment of four Chapel Hill firefighters today.

Douglas Parrish, David Sasser,

Gerald Boone and Christopher Stephens were equipped to carry everything they need on their backs, and will receive training and further equipment in Georgia before being shuttled on to the disaster area.

Fire Chief Dan Jones said that the men's 30-day tour will be rough duty, but there was a tremendous response within the department.

"That's not too much of a sacrifice on this end compared to the sacrifice the four are making that are going down there," he said.

The Carrboro Fire Department sent two firefighters to meet the same call.

Local organizations also are helping from home. More than 200 evacuees arrived at Raleigh-Durham International Airport last night.

Ball said county officials are look-

ing for sites other than the schools that traditionally would shelter disaster victims because the victims' projected stay is longer than usual. So far the Orange County chapter of the American Red Cross has only processed 13 cases of evacuees.

The Red Cross provided relief training to 71 volunteers during the weekend, and will continue providing training on an ongoing basis.

Those interested in helping should e-mail occhapnc@intrex.net or call 942-0761.

Additionally, Ball said he is looking to work with Orange County Animal Services to find ways to shelter evacuees' pets, which are often not allowed into shelters.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

HEARINGS

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on landmark cases like *Roe v. Wade*.

"There is no ethical reason to avoid (those questions)," Hurwitz said. "But that doesn't mean he won't try."

Adding fuel to a political fire, President Bush also could pick a nominee to fill O'Connor's seat soon, and speculation is rampant it will be a woman or a minority — or both.

"He might feel some pressure not to replace Justice O'Connor twice with a man," Schapiro said.

Now that Bush has Roberts in line to be chief justice — something experts say the president wanted all along — he could be more inclined to appoint a woman or a minority.

Hurwitz said criticism of the administration's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster could push him toward a minority as well. "He's being criticized on a race issue," he said. "I think a minority appointment may help to dissuade that."

Others speculate that Bush might call for a justice closer to mainstream America.

But experts say that despite all of the political fortune that could come with a middle-of-the-road nomination, Bush has not shown himself to be a president who folds easily.

"The president has made clear that he has a certain vision in what he wants on the Supreme Court," Schapiro said. "He may pursue that and not be restrained by short-term political trends in Washington."

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LOUISIANA

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water was restored just a few days ago and electricity is still a memory.

"I don't really have a plan," she said. "Just take it from day-to-day and hope that we survive."

While there was no guarantee that Tuesday night would bring the long-awaited food stamps, the day already had brought welcome news for Moore.

She finally learned that her husband, who stayed behind in New Orleans and had not been heard from since the storm, is safe.

"I just got word that he's in Texas," she said.

"I didn't know whether he was dead or alive."

As she and others shared their stories in the makeshift encampment Tuesday night, a team of N.C. National Guardsmen worked to keep order among the hundreds of people settling in to wait through the evening for food stamp distribution.

In this parish of 106,000, where nearly half of all homes are still waiting for electricity and an 8 p.m. curfew is in effect, the guardsmen have been a welcome sight.

"Everybody's been real friendly," said Sgt. Christopher Ollis, standing among the crowd at the social services center. "Our main thing in this parish is to get the community back together."

It's a community where even before the hurricane 22.7 percent of residents — more than 10 percent above the national average — were living in poverty, according to 2000 U.S. Census data.

Ollis deployed Friday along with nearly 300 other members of the N.C. National Guard's Quick Reaction Force, a unit established after Sept. 11, 2001, to handle a wide range of emergencies across the country.

In Tangipahoa Parish, the unit has been called on to patrol the streets alongside local police officers and keep order at local businesses and aid centers.

"The guard has played an important role with our problems," said parish president Gordon Burgess.

"Whatever needs to be done, whether it be a clean-up or delivering food, water and ice."

The Quick Reaction Force will be on the ground in Louisiana for at least another few weeks, with the potential for extending the mission further.

Not knowing where they'd be deployed, the unit was ready for anything, said Sgt. Brian Christiansen.

"We're basically borrowed out by Louisiana's National Guard," he said. "We follow under their

"Our main thing in this parish is to get the community back together."

SGT. CHRISTOPHER OLLIS,
N.C. NATIONAL GUARD

chain of command and their error."

Lt. John Hearn, driving his Humvee through tree-cluttered streets, said he was more than a little surprised the Reaction Force hadn't been sent to New Orleans, given its heavy training in dealing with civil disturbances and security.

"We're more worth our weight in gold in there than we are here," he said.

But driving through Tangipahoa, where residents waved and gave the thumbs-up to passing Humvees, it was clear the guard was providing much-needed reassurance to a battered community.

"These people were hit hard," Hearn said.

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EVACUEES

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received back in their hometown.

He said neighbors he never met before came over offering them food and water.

"These are people of all different nationalities who came together," he said. "It was truly amazing."

Booth was able to stay in his aunt's house until Monday when an armed rescue team forced him and his aunt to evacuate.

Huffman also stayed in a home until Monday. He said he didn't stock up on supplies, but still had water and a telephone after the storm. Once the the 17th Street Canal levee was breached, he lost everything.

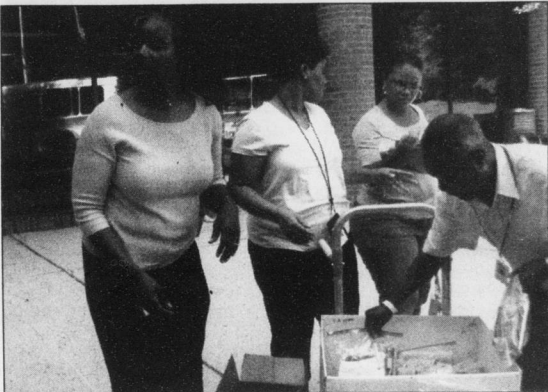
"I work at a restaurant, so I grabbed some supplies before we shut down," he said. "But I looted. I did."

He said a group of people came down the street with a forklift and pried open the gate in front of the drug store near his house.

He said many of the other people who ran into the store went to the prescription drug section and took everything they could find. "We didn't have Red Cross."

Huffman said he was scared to leave his home because of the chaos going on outside. After three days, people began to run out of supplies, and he said things got crazy.

"They blew off a guy's head about three blocks from my house," he said. "His body stayed there and floated in the water."



Tomiko Hicks, (left) of Wake County Human Services, passes out toiletries to evacuees leaving to take a shower Tuesday at a Morrisville camp.

Huffman said he finally went to his father's house, about a 30-minute walk from his home, because he didn't feel safe.

"Some people broke into a mall and then set it on fire," he said. "The firemen were trying to put it out, and the police were having a war with all the criminals."

Huffman's father still is in New Orleans, seeing it through to the end, he said.

Booth said he has not yet been able to determine if his wife, mother-in-law and daughter are safe.

He said he is very concerned about his daughter, who is a police officer in New Orleans. He said he

knew of an officer who committed suicide because of the trauma.

But for now, both men said they are just glad to be out of Louisiana and a step closer to a normal life.

Huffman said he is talking with the support staff about getting back in school in Virginia.

But Booth is not ready to make those kinds of decisions. He said he is going to wait until he can find out where his family is.

"If my family is living, I'll go to them," he said. "I'm too old to just start over."

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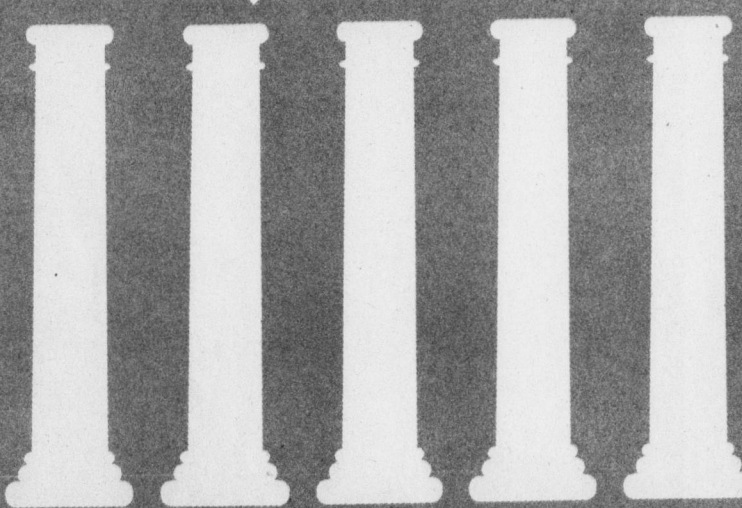
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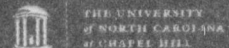


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