

Students fast for Darfur

BY KERRY CANNITY
STAFF WRITER

The UNC-Chapel Hill community came together Thursday to raise money and awareness for the plight of refugees from Darfur.

Students United for Darfur Awareness Now hosted a daylong fast to raise awareness about the genocide that is a daily occurrence in this ravaged part of Africa.

A part of the day's events was a "luxury fast," in which people abstained from something they enjoy and donated the money they would have spent on it to help residents of Darfur.

Students wearing green shirts milled around the Pit wearing name tags that stated their sacrifice, such as food or television.

Chancellor James Moeser even gave up his parking spot next to South Building to show his support for the cause.

The fast kicked off last night with a screening of "Hotel Rwanda," a film showing the conditions of refugees during a rebellion in that country. Many students cited the movie as a reason for getting involved with SUDAN and the fast.

"So many areas in the world are being neglected," said Mani Maheshwari, a sophomore biology major who watched the film Wednesday.

"If I can do anything as one person, I should," Maheshwari said.

"They are overcome by the enemy, but these people will not give up, and that's why we keep fighting."

MANOI MANOI, SUDANESE NATIVE

According to Amnesty International's Web site, people in Darfur, the western part of Sudan, have become increasingly upset about the lack of government protection for their families and their farms.

In 2003, unrest escalated into violence. The Sudanese government joined with a militia group to put down the rebels. In battles between the militia and two rebel groups in Darfur, much of the region has been burned and its residents displaced.

SUDAN seeks to raise awareness of the situation in Darfur. They also host programs to raise money and gather supplies for refugees of the conflict.

The president of SUDAN, Tracy Boyer, and her colleagues have been working since August to plan the day's events.

"Our basic goal is to raise awareness," Boyer said.

Proceeds from Thursday's events will go toward a school for Sudanese refugees that UNC-CH has adopted and to "Dimes for Darfur," a fundraiser for Sudanese refugees, organized by N.C. Hillel.

SUDAN also raised money by hosting a dinner Thursday night, signalling the end of the fast.

"Dinner for Darfur" was served in the Great Hall. Restaurants on Franklin Street donated food and a refugee from the Sudanese civil war spoke.

Manoi Manoi grew up in southern Sudan. After his mother was killed during the civil war, he was evacuated to Ethiopia, then to Kenya and finally to the U.S. He is now a senior at UNC-Asheville.

Though he is from southern Sudan, Manoi said that those from his area sympathize strongly with the people of Darfur.

"They are overcome by the enemy," he said. "But these people will not give up, and that's why we keep fighting."

Manoi said that he is very happy in the U.S. and he loves college. However, he said he still longs to return to his home in Sudan.

"If I have something to offer, I will definitely go back to help my desperate country."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BSM ball aims to raise relief funds

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Part of the Black Student Movement's mission is to support and help its community.

But that outreach doesn't stop within the walls of the University.

Tonight's 2005 BSM Coronation Ball, "Mardi Gras: A Tribute to New Orleans," is dedicated to remembering and helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"When we say helping the community, it's not just the students," said Cami Marshall, co-chairwoman of the BSM special program parent/alumni relations committee.

"It's anywhere we can help."

The ball will take place today from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Durham Millennium Hotel.

Tickets cost \$15, but couples can buy two for \$20. Tickets are on sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the BSM office in Union 3508. All tickets sold at the door tonight will cost \$20.

Ticket revenue will cover the cost of the event, but members will take up a collection to raise money for Hurricane Katrina relief.

The money will be sent to a Louisiana chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"Remember the lives that were lost," BSM President Brandon Hodges said.

"Never forget the tragedy. As American citizens we have that responsibility to look out for our people."

Marshall said it is especially critical to continue to remember Hurricane Katrina's devastating effect on the Gulf Coast even after some time has passed since the storm hit.

"I think it's important that if we can't physically be there to do something we need to send as much money so that they know we're still thinking of them," she said.

The donation collection is part of BSM's larger goal of public service. Leaders will take the opportunity to announce other service projects at the event.

This year's Mr. and Miss BSM will be announced at the ball, which is the night's historical purpose, Hodges said. Each candidate must present a proposed service project for review.

The organization then will support those elected in their campaigns for homecoming king and queen. If elected king or queen,

they will put their service project into action.

"It's very important because they're going to be our representatives for homecoming," said Alicia O'Neal, co-chairwoman of the BSM member and elections committee.

Voting was open for BSM members Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Pit and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in front of Chase Dining Hall at Rams Head.

Hodges said BSM members not only vote based on the service projects, but they also usually vote for someone whom they can express their concerns to and who they think embodies the mission of BSM.

"I think people look for a dedication to BSM and involvement since freshman year," he said.

Students do not have to be a member of the BSM to attend the ball, Marshall said.

"The BSM ball is open to everybody."

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DTH FORUM

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audience know how they arrived to the forum.

Most candidates, except for Mayor Kevin Foy, said they drove to the forum. Foy left the forum early to catch the last bus home.

But most also were in agreement that the town's public transit system needs to be reevaluated.

Alderman Mark Chilton, a candidate for Carrboro mayor, said the routes need to be studied to see where service is lacking, not-

ing that often students don't have late-night bus service home from campus.

"We need to beef up our late night service," he said.

Alderman candidate David Marshall agreed, saying, "If (the bus is) going around town empty, we need to do something about that."

Candidates also had the chance to be a bit nostalgic when student and lifelong Chapel Hill resident James Allred asked candidates to envision their perfect downtown.

Council candidate Laurin Easthom said she'd like to see a foun-

"The best way to get students involved is not to just get students involved during elections."

JACQUELYN GIST, ALDERMAN

tain downtown. Incumbent council candidate Mark Kleinschmidt said he hopes officials can help change residents' perception of the downtown, noting that it already has all the essentials.

In their closing statements, most candidates encouraged students to vote and noted the uniqueness of

both towns.

"Both the University and the towns are going to grow because it's a good place to live," Foy said, "I think we should celebrate how lucky we are."

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POPE FOUND

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was the culmination of a process marked by controversy, as many faculty members voiced concern about the group's involvement in University affairs.

Seventy-one faculty members signed an open letter last year against the Pope Foundation's funding, arguing that the process was too opaque and that the foundation's involvement could compromise the University's autonomy.

The Pope Foundation funds the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, a conservative think tank

that has been critical of University faculty and courses.

But faculty members have yet to comment on the new proposal, and when asked, many vocal opponents of last year's bid said they were unaware of the new proposal.

"This is the first I've heard of it," said William Race, a classics professor and who signed the open letter.

He added that he knew of no faculty members who had actually read the latest proposal.

Altha Cravey, a geography professor who also signed the letter, said she was unaware of the proposal until Thursday.

And Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said Thursday afternoon that her office had received no faculty concerns about the new proposal.

The new proposal would call for less involvement by the Pope Foundation in University affairs, Gray-Little said.

"It expands programs already endorsed by faculty," she said.

Review procedures for programs like first-year seminars, because they are so well-established, can serve as safe-guards against control from outside campus borders, she added.

"There is very thorough review

by faculty," she said.

But for now, the ball is in the Pope Foundation's court.

Foundation head Art Pope, a UNC alumnus, declined to comment on the specifics of the review process, other than to say that there was no timetable for the completion of the review.

He said last year's faculty opposition did little to sour relations between his organization and the University.

"We're always open to considering proposals from the University of North Carolina."

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EASTHOM

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such as Carolina North can call Chapel Hill their home.

"We don't want to be seen in Chapel Hill as a gated community," Easthom said.

But right now, she said, housing prices are just not where they need to be.

"We're seeing extreme highs and ... extreme highs."

She also wants different groups to work together to pull out a downtown that acts as a bridge between the town and its academic neighbor.

"Here is a chance for students, UNC administrators and the town to work together to make a social place, a place that we all can use together, can link together with," she said.

And Kabrick said Easthom is the kind of person who could foster

that sort of understanding.

"She's outgoing, participative in terms of expressing her opinions, definitely willing to listen to the opinions of others," he said.

On the campaign trail, Easthom also said she prefers intimate neighborhood get-togethers, which allow her to mingle and chat with residents, to large and formal forums, at which candidates tend to engage in more oration than conversation.

"The neighborhood things have been fantastic," she said.

But all of that doesn't mean that Easthom doesn't like seeing her kids out kicking the ball around at Rainbow Soccer.

"I enjoy going out and spending time with my kids and seeing them excel at a sport and seeing them engage in teamwork."

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HOPEFUL

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for that — no pun intended," she said. "I would love to see an arm of Friends of Bolin Creek be UNC students."

Haven-O'Donnell said the draft map of the parts of Bolin Creek the group wants preserved, which the aldermen approved Tuesday, will allow the town to have better discussions about the creek.

"The map is just a guideline — it's a tool to guide the discussion," she said. "It doesn't delineate the next steps, but it clarifies what each component should be."

Julie McClintock, a former Chapel Hill Town Council member and former chairwoman of the Friends of Bolin Creek, said she thinks enthusiasm like Haven-O'Donnell's at the town level is extremely important to environmental issues.

"I really had fun working with her — she's a person of boundless energy and great perseverance," McClintock said. "I really hope she can put those qualities to work on the board."

Haven-O'Donnell said students should get involved in the planning process for Carolina North, the University's proposed satellite campus on the Horace Williams tract, which includes a section of Bolin Creek.

"They can really say, 'This is what works for us as students,'" she said.

"We should be thinking outside the box, or outside the tract. ... (Carolina North) is one of the places that UNC could top Duke (University) or top (N.C.) State (University) in terms of how they went about their development ... to be a bedrock of the community."

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SANDHILLS

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Historic Pinehurst Village is home to such quaint shops as the Pink Pine Cone, Potpourri and Incredible Edibles, a business that resembles an old-fashioned general store but focuses on satisfying the sweet tooth with ice cream, candy and elaborate espresso concoctions.

A sense of being carried back in time can best be had by visiting the resort's Carolina Hotel & Spa, where guests and visitors come when they are ready to put the clubs back into the trunk. While the hotel offers a range of accommodations to fit a variety of budgets, visitors need not necessarily check in to get a taste of the early-20th century high life.

The antique-decorated lobby is a lovely place to take a break. For a mere \$2.50, nonguests even can get a taste of luxury at 4 p.m. every day at the afternoon tea service.

When the cup's empty, there is a puzzle featuring a picture of the hotel itself spread out just waiting to be finished. A couple of long halls branching off feature frames and shadowboxes brimming with memorabilia from the resort's long history, including a set of clubs dating back to the 1920s.

"It's the type of place where you can reserve a carriage ride, pop into the sundries for a milkshake or roam the halls with their pictures of past champs and dignitaries," Boyd says.

SOUTHERN PINES

Go a little farther down N.C. 2, pine-lined the entire way except for where the occasional golf course interrupts, to find the peaceful town of Southern Pines, also well known for its golf courses, farms and quaint historic downtown. Broad Street, the town's equivalent

of Franklin Street, is home to a series of restaurants and storefronts perfect for browsing on a Saturday afternoon.

One of those, The Country Bookshop, a small store where the smell of old pages combines with the creaks of a wooden floor for quite the eclectic shopping experience, has served an even larger purpose for the locals.

"If you ever want to know what's going on, come into The Country Bookshop," says Susan Harrison, a former employee. "People consider it the town hall of Southern Pines."

Golf still seems to be the dominant recreational sport in this town, and if visitors need a break from the links, they can discard their spikes in exchange for a pair of Timberlands and head down to Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve.

This 898-acre park features wide expanses of tall longleaf pine trees springing up from white sand carpets and might make guests more inclined to lay out a beach towel than to tackle one of its six rather painless hiking trails, the longest of which extends 1.8 miles.

By taking a closer look at this unspoiled habitat, originally donated as a park in 1963, hikers can learn a little more about what this state looked like thousands of years ago.

"(The park) does a great deal of interpretative education, which is what I personally enjoy about it," says Kim Hyre, a North Carolina park ranger.

While the Sandhills region might be known best for its world-renowned golfing, visitors should not disregard the wealth of opportunities even a short weekend visit has to offer.

"It's a wonderful day trip for people — it's such a time warp down here," Boyd says.

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