

# Scopes to enlighten state

BY SHARI FELD  
STAFF WRITER

Alumnus John Morehead III wanted to find a gift for the University in the 1930s that would spark curiosity about science.

After discussing the possibility of building a planetarium, he met with a Harvard University astronomer who had declared North Carolinians to be "the most astronomically ignorant people in all America."

Morehead challenged the astronomer, saying that if he revised the statement to read, "Of all people in America, North Carolinians are the most ignorant of astronomical matters," they would work together to build the planetarium.

The astronomer obliged, and the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center opened in 1949.

The planetarium continues to fulfill Morehead's mission today, looking to use the center's resources to better serve people across the state.

When the Panchromatic Robotic Optical Monitoring and Polarimetry Telescopes come online next year, UNC-Chapel Hill students will not be the only ones able to wield them to study the night sky.

PROMPT is part of UNC-CH's greater effort to reach out to North Carolina and promote a more competitive student population. The telescopes will provide high school and undergraduate students at other universities access to the telescopes free of charge on a limited basis.

The telescopes are in development stages along the slopes of Cerro Tololo, Chile.

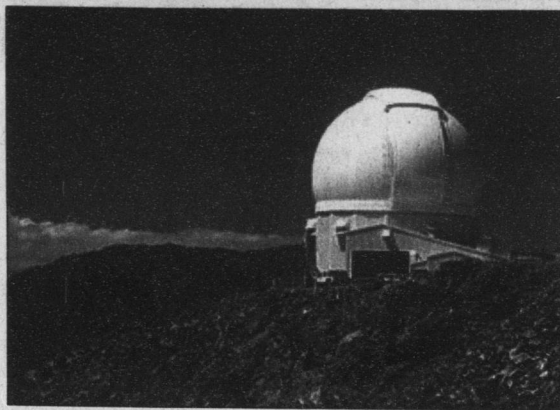
"It just ties in so perfectly with the history of the University," Provost Robert Shelton said.

About 10 percent of PROMPT telescope user time is allocated to the Morehead Planetarium's programs with state high school students through Project Observe, which stands for Observation-Based Student Experience in Research Via Exploration.

"We have the ability to inspire young people," said Dan Reichart, a physics and astronomy professor who initiated PROMPT in 2002 to study gamma-ray bursts.

"There is a deficit of scientifically literate students in the country. Astronomy is one way to attract people to science," Reichart said. Astronomy is the "gateway drug" to other sciences, he joked.

Through an application process, 30 earth and environmental sci-



COURTESY OF DAN REICHART

Chile is the site of several UNC initiatives in astronomical research. The Southern Observatory for Astrophysical Research in Chile is seen here.

ence teachers from the state will be selected during the 2005-06 school year to participate in Observe, with plans for future expansion.

"It's hands-on astronomy, which is hard to do in the average North Carolina science classroom," said Jesse Richuso, educational program assistant at Morehead Planetarium, adding that it is a way to combat low science test scores and to enhance the science curriculum.

Rob Greenberg, an earth and environmental sciences instructor at Chapel Hill High School, was among the first teachers to show interest in the program.

Greenberg is the only teacher to have a guaranteed position in the program, Richuso said. This spring, Greenberg will help Morehead officials test out the program.

Next year his students will be able to direct the telescopes from the classroom via Skynet — a prioritized queue scheduling system that works through the Internet.

Students send a command through Skynet for the telescopes to take pictures, and PROMPT follows the orders when researchers are not using the telescopes.

"It's much better than learning out of a book," Greenberg said.

Skynet's creator, UNC-CH alumnus Adam Crain, said he feels like he missed out during his secondary education experience.

"I'm kind of jealous I didn't have that opportunity as a high school student," Crain said of the program. "They get to participate in something that's live."

Another 20 percent of telescope

user time is designated for non-UNC-CH undergraduate students, mostly from elsewhere in the state.

"This is a way for them to get high-quality data from a professional observatory, and they can gain experience with the research process by working with the astronomer at their institution," Reichart said.

Professors at each participating institution are able to design their own curricula.

"It gives us access to a part of the sky we otherwise would not have any access to," said Dan Caton, observatory director at Appalachian State University — one of 11 PROMPT collaboration institutions.

As a professor of physics and astronomy, Caton said he will integrate the program into his observational techniques astronomy course and use the telescopes for personal research.

Steve Danford, head of the department of physics and astronomy at UNC-Greensboro — another PROMPT collaborator — will use the telescopes for similar purposes. Danford said he hopes to enlist upper-level physics majors to participate in research.

For a project that aims to learn more about the night sky, Reichart said, PROMPT's future looks bright.

"This is a great opportunity to expand this robotic telescope network. In the future, this thing's going to grow from six telescopes to a robotic global network."

Contact the University Editor at [uodesk@unc.edu](mailto:uodesk@unc.edu).

# Volunteers comfort community ills

## Centers looking for willing help

BY LAURA OLENIACZ  
STAFF WRITER

When Amy Preble went on call for her first 24-hour shift at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, she waited 23 hours and 45 minutes before her first call came in.

"I was terrified at first," she said, recalling the rush of adrenaline that initially came over her.

Preble was preparing to take a call that could involve a number of situations — someone dealing with flashbacks from an assault, just needing to talk or making a call on behalf of a loved one.

"(It was) something that seemed so challenging and that would make such an impact," she said of her reasons for joining the rape crisis center as a volunteer in 1991.

At the time, Preble was a UNC sophomore.

Starting as a part of the Companions program that accompanies rape victims to the hospital, she now works as director of the center's board.

Now the center is looking for willing volunteers like Preble to help with outreach services such as group mentoring.

The center encourages people of all walks of life, age, ethnicity and background to apply for a position.

The Family Violence Prevention Center in Chapel Hill also accepted new applicants this month.

"Our clients really come from a wide variety of backgrounds. There's men and women, people from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds," said Melissa Carmack, the volunteer coordinator for the family violence program.

"Domestic violence doesn't discriminate," Carmack said.

"We need to be able to talk about domestic violence and (that) it's still an issue."

The rape crisis center's main goal is to assure victims of assault that they are not alone.

"We just try to assure them it wasn't their fault," said Margaret Barrett, executive director of the center. "(It's about) knowing there's a place where they'll always be believed."

"We work with people to talk about what their options are.

"We want them to have the tools to help people make decisions themselves," she said.

The violence prevention center's main job is empowerment, working to give the organization's clients information to take control of their situations and lives.

Both organizations act as resource centers for victims, providing information about mental health organizations and legal processes that could aid them in their recovery.

Training to be a volunteer at the rape crisis center involves a 63-hour program — which begins in early February — that acclimates volunteers to the job and its emotional requirements.

The application deadline for the family violence center passed Monday, and the 40-hour training session is set to begin Jan. 31.

"A lot of our community members come in and share their expertise with volunteers-in-training," Carmack said.

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

## THE Daily Crossword

By Victor Fleming

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### ACROSS

- 1 Dot on a map
- 6 Part of "M\*A\*S\*H"
- 10 Bubble maker
- 14 Bete \_\_\_ (pet peeve)
- 15 Deviates off course
- 16 Quaker State port
- 17 Jar into reality
- 20 Imitator
- 21 Couric of TV
- 22 Desert havens
- 23 Wall St. letters
- 25 University in Deland, FL
- 27 Tres y tres
- 29 Part of rpm
- 30 Audit pro
- 33 Appropriate
- 36 Nor I, informally
- 38 Try not to be seen
- 41 Waned
- 42 Brings in
- 43 Tippler
- 44 Sinbad's bird
- 45 Lab gel
- 47 O'Toole or Bening
- 49 Leave text in!
- 53 Wise saying
- 56 Apollo's birthplace
- 58 Boat propeller
- 59 Agree with, generally
- 62 Oven setting
- 63 Formicary residents

- 64 Church passage
- 65 Colonial blackbirds
- 66 RBI or ERA
- 67 Allotted, with "out"

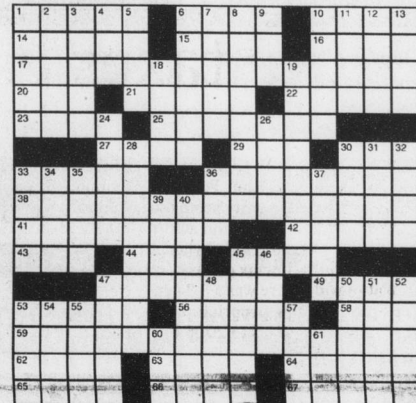
### DOWN

- 1 "Newsboy" painter
- 2 Henry
- 3 Lathered up
- 4 Preferences
- 5 Afore
- 6 Warp-resistant wood
- 7 Regency hotels
- 8 Regency hotels
- 9 Funny Jack of Hollywood
- 10 Climbing plant
- 11 Nittany Lions' sch.
- 12 Thin-shelled nut
- 13 Pension \$\$
- 14 Heap
- 15 Slippery swimmers
- 16 Past tense query

- 19 Unworkable suggestion
- 24 Annual sports awards
- 26 Witnessed
- 28 Xerox LAN
- 30 "Mask" star
- 31 Hammer part
- 32 Boats like Noah's
- 33 Two-strippers: abbr.
- 34 Bread spread
- 35 Tobacco kiln
- 36 Part of MD
- 37 Rulers before Lenin
- 39 Party to
- 40 Dead person

- 45 Finally!
- 46 H.S. math class
- 47 De Mille of the dance
- 48 Kernel's coat
- 50 Drinker's salute
- 51 Philly pro
- 52 Cornered
- 53 Swedish pop group
- 54 College VIP
- 55 Golfer Isao
- 57 Sewing line
- 60 Possesses
- 61 Chart type

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**Information Session—Intern/Full Time**  
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