

Student EMTs stage accident

BY ANIKA ANAND
STAFF WRITER

Senior Jenna Brooks rushed to a bleeding girl who had fallen over on her bike in the middle of the Pit.

But she stopped worrying when she realized it wasn't real.

Students in an Emergency Medical Technician training program staged the accident, complete with fake blood and broken bones, in hopes of gaining student interest in their program.

The trained students demonstrated their skills handling emergencies for passersby, checking the girl's vitals, putting her in a neck brace and carrying her off on a backboard.

Brooks, who is trained in first aid and CPR because of her job at Rams Head Recreation Center, was the only student to attempt to help the girl, besides the EMTs.

"When something like that happens, it's hard to take the first step and respond," Brooks said.

But if the demonstration's organizers, Darshan Patel and Cameron Lambert, get their way, more students will be trained to take action.

Both are instructors of the University's EMT-Basic class that is taught in conjunction with Durham Technical Community College.

Lambert said he realized the importance of medical training when he and two other UNC student EMTs were on scene after Mohammad Taheri-Azar drove an SUV through the Pit in 2006, injuring nine people.

Lambert said one of the student EMTs was the first person to call the ambulance.

"He was able to communicate well with the dispatcher. He told him what type of condition the victims were in and what resources he needed to send," Lambert said.

"After that, we made a goal that if something like this did happen again, we could have 20 people in the area who would know what to do."

Patel and Lambert hope to achieve that goal by adding a third EMT class at UNC. They said the only prerequisites for the course are to be University-affiliated, to be 18 years old and to have a driver's license.

Lambert, the current president of the Association for Carolina Emergency Response and Injury Prevention, said the organization was founded at UNC in 2005 and has since trained more than 320



Andrew Lu (right) stabilizes Genevieve Kelly's head as fellow classmates Shane Broyhill (left) and Brett Weed assist as part of the Emergency Medical Technician response to a staged bicycle accident in the Pit.

students.

Students are trained to treat patients with first aid for trauma, back grounding, hemorrhage control and splinting. He said EMT Basics also can respond to medical calls from people with diabetes and respiratory problems.

Sophomore Genevieve Kelly took the class this semester and served as the practice dummy for the Pit demonstration.

"I'm currently pre-med and so I wanted to get my feet wet by taking

some classes to see if I was cut out for medicine and trauma," she said.

"But you don't have to have any medical background experience, we even have some English majors," Patel said.

Ricky Hurtado, who watched the demonstration from a nearby table, said he thought it was real at first. He said it helped him recognize the importance of being able to help someone and that he would consider becoming an EMT.

"It was a good way to bring the

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issue to the surface," he said. "Too many people sit and watch and don't know how to react because they are afraid. Preparedness is really important."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu

Tickets remain for senior dance at Spice Street

BY JAMIE RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

Instead of opening its doors for the whole Chapel Hill community tonight, Spice Street Restaurant will cater to just UNC seniors.

The restaurant, located at University Mall, will be filled with food, music, drinks and seniors as the class holds its annual semiformal dance.

For the past two months, senior officials have been planning the senior semiformal. They have been holding up signs in the Pit and publicizing the event this week.

"It's a tradition. They've been doing it for years and years," said Pinar Gurel, senior class vice president. "It's like a high school prom or a Homecoming dance, that kind of thing."

Senior Class President James Shelly said he and Gurel followed the model from last year's semiformal, which also was held at Spice Street.

"We talked to Veronica (Mora) and Ashley (Shores), last year's officers, and decided to go by 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it,'" Shelly said.

He said the group made no changes from last year's plan.

Shelly said the estimated cost of the semiformal is a couple thousand dollars. There is money set aside for the night from semiformal ticket sales, senior student fees and fundraising events, including senior bar nights.

Gurel said the senior class hopes to break even on the event if tickets sell out. The event was close to selling out last year.

Spice Street has a capacity of 400 people, and about half that number of tickets have been sold so far. There were 4,912 seniors enrolled at the beginning of the semester.

Shelly said he expects the event to sell out, and the remaining tickets are on sale in the Pit today and online.

Tickets are not available at the door. If tickets are purchased online, seniors only need to present a copy of their confirmation e-mail.

"I'm just excited about seeing the

"Now's that time when exams are looming, but they'll be able to enjoy themselves for a night."

JAMES SHELLY, SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

ATTEND THE SEMIFORMAL

Time: 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. today

Location: Spice Street, University Mall

Info: alumni.unc.edu/secure/student/seniorball09_reg.asp

senior class have a good time," Shelly said. "Now's that time when exams are looming, but they'll be able to enjoy themselves for a night."

Spice Street General Manager Said Kalek said he is glad the class approached him about hosting the event.

"We have lots of people from UNC come here," he said. "I think a lot of people come for the drinks and the dancing."

The event will last until 2 a.m., and attendees are expected to wear strictly semiformal attire. Men should not wear jeans, but ties are not required. Women can wear a pantsuit or dress of any length.

"I'm really excited about dressing up," Gurel said. "I really like these kinds of dress-up affairs and dancing."

Seniors will have to pay for drinks, but hors d'oeuvres are free. A free shuttle to the event will run between Morehead Planetarium parking lot and Spice Street from 10:15 p.m. until 2:15 a.m.

Stephanie Kane, a senior journalism major, said she plans to attend the event with roommates and thinks the shuttle is a great idea.

"It's nice not to worry about driving, and it's a fun wintertime event," she said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu

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