

Group seeks 'practical' prison reform

by Nancy Haslam
Staff Writer

The grim conditions at the Hillsborough Prison Unit are beginning to brighten through the efforts of a small group of Chapel Hill and Hillsborough citizens.

Responding to a need for a practical approach to prison reform, Hillsborough lawyer John Curry and Correctional Unit director Ron Secrest organized the Orange County Community Advisory Council to the Department of Corrections six months ago.

The council focuses on improving interaction and communication among the inmates, the correctional officials and the citizens of the area.

In addition to Curry and Secrest, other members include several ministers and churchwomen, three inmates, one paroled inmate, and interested citizens. UNC student Ernie Pitt and Dr. Bernard Boyd of the Religion Department are on the council. State Legislator Ed Holmes has attended several of the meetings.

Pitt stated that the council wants to "smooth the transition of the inmate into the community." Secondly, the council wants to change the attitudes of the public about inmates.

"People in prisons are still people," Pitt said. "Most are not hardened

criminals. The public has just got to realize it.

"A lot of people would like to put the inmates inside the prison and cement up the door," he said.

Council Chairman John Curry said, "A goal of the group is to hear the grievances of the inmates and to attempt to communicate these grievances to the personnel of the unit."

The council is limited in the projects it can undertake. All members are volunteers. The council has no funds except for private donations. It can act only as an advisory body, since it is not a government sponsored organization.

"A tremendous asset would be the involvement of businessmen," Curry said.

"They could help in job placement and might be able to help us with funds."

Curry feels that the community is helping itself by helping the inmates. The council provides the opportunity for an interested citizen to become involved.

Secrest, the unit director, wants community support for the council. "Interaction between the citizen and the inmate may remove some of the misconceptions about prisoners that the public has," Secrest said.

The council is divided into several subcommittees including education, recreation, beautification and public relations. Also in operation are the health, grievance and community volunteers committees.

Mrs. John B. Adams of Chapel Hill is head of the beautification committee, which is interested in improving the physical appearance of the unit.

Adams reports that a joint group of Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopalian churchwomen have made curtains for the windows of the unit.

Also, the Garden Council, a group of 11 area garden clubs, has planted grass, shrubs and \$200 worth of plants. "We want the inmates to get involved, to watch something grow," Adams said.

Presently the beautification committee is working with an architect at N.C. State University to develop an entire land-use plan for the unit.

John Curry temporarily heads the recreation committee. They have provided ping pong tables, recording equipment and resources for the library. They are trying to obtain a bus for the inmates to use to attend outside activities.

"A unit should not operate in isolation. It should be a part of the community," Curry said. "Inmates should be able to take advantage of the opportunities available in the community."

Ernie Pitt, a UNC journalism major, is chairman of the public relations committee. Pitt stresses the need for community action in prison reform.

"Only when people get together can attitudes begin to change," Pitt said.

Pitt reports favorable response to the council and to his committee by inmates, citizens and correction officials.

"The council now needs public interest and support," Curry added. The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the Hillsborough Correctional Unit.

Interested people are invited to attend. The council requires its members to attend at least nine of the monthly meetings per year.

Contact Tom Farmer at United Presbyterian Church or John Curry in Hillsborough if you would like to attend.

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Students offered vote by Poli Sci faculty

by Amy O'Neal
Staff Writer

The faculty committee of the Political Science Department has agreed to include undergraduate representation and voting power if a Political Science Association can be formed to select the representatives.

An organizational meeting is scheduled at 7:30 Thursday in 103 Bingham. All 700 undergraduate political science majors are asked to attend.

"We are very pleased at the student interest shown so far," Dr. John Martz, chairman of the department, said. "We've had problems in the department because of the number of undergraduates and our

inability to learn their opinions.

"The faculty decided last semester that three students should be on the committee if an organization to fairly select the student representatives could be formed. All department problems are discussed in faculty meetings and undergraduate input could mean a great deal," Martz said.

"Organizing such an association has been tried twice before at UNC," Amy Berne explained. Berne is one of six political science majors who are trying to interest students in forming the organization.

"The plan failed the other two times, but I think students would really become involved if they realized the

improvements that could be made in the department," Berne said.

The formation of a Political Science Association would provide student input into adding new political science courses, revising current courses, dealing with the problem of closed classes and improving the adviser system.

"We have a liberal curriculum in the department now," Ann Allison, another organizer, said, "but it could be improved. Presently the head of the department asks each professor to choose two courses he wants to teach. A classroom is assigned and the number of students in the course is determined by the size of the classroom."

"With undergraduate input, students could propose courses they would like to take. With student opinion taken into account, a method of placing out of Political Science 41 might be devised for students with that background already," Allison said.

"The adviser system needs to be improved too," Cathy Verdone said. "All of the department members are more than happy to help students who need help, but with so many undergraduates in the department, extra help is needed."

"The Political Science Association could bring students together," Verdone said, "so juniors and seniors could help underclassmen learn what courses are required and which courses are really good."

Information about jobs, involvement with the community and departmental social activities are other areas needing work. "The association could form a committee to get information about jobs and study opportunities which could be distributed to the students," Berne said.

"The Political Science Association can go any way and work on anything its members want," Berne said. "It's a fantastic opportunity for student input and now, when the faculty is ready, is a great time to start working together."



Doomed?

These majestic pines may stand no more if the southern pine beetle blight isn't soon arrested. Trees in the Chapel Hill area have been under the threat for months now, but efforts are under way to stop a renewed spring outbreak.

(Staff photo by Tom Lassiter)

Board to fill vacancy

The Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen will meet in a special session at 5 p.m. today to appoint a replacement for Alderman George Coxhead, who resigned Jan. 12 to accept a post on the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

While the aldermen are quiet about whom they are considering, the chances of a student from the university receiving an appointment are slim if the board follows precedent.

In the past, it has been the policy of the board to appoint someone of the general philosophy of the resigned member.

Coxhead usually spoke for the business interests of Chapel Hill.

The meeting will be held in the assembly room of the Municipal Building and is open to the public.

The Aldermen will not consider a replacement for former Town Manager Robert Peck until Coxhead's seat is filled, since the search committee consists of the Board of Aldermen.

The Board of Aldermen did not meet Monday night because of their operating procedure of not meeting on the fifth Monday of a month.

Local pines hit by beetles again

by David Eskridge
Staff Writer

'Dem boogs are bitin' agin!
The North Carolina Forest Service recently reported that 30 spots have been found in the Chapel Hill area where the dreaded southern pine beetle has been eating away at the trees.

Last fall, Chapel Hillians went all-out in trying to curb the destruction done by the beetles, but it will be impossible to tell what good, if any, the effort did until spring, according to District Forester Cam Eskridge.

The best long-range defense against the beetle is forest management. During the fall, between 350 and 375 trees were cut in Battle Park, and 15 acres were cleared west of Chapel Hill.

In the city, forest management is more difficult because trees have both aesthetic and commercial value.

Eskridge added that the best time to

remove beetle-infested trees is in the winter when the beetles are not spreading. However, it is more difficult to spot affected trees in the cold months since a pine tree may remain green several months after it dies.

A beetle-infested pine can be identified by small white popcorn-shaped pitch tubes on its bark. The tubes can be found on the southern, or sunny side of the tree.

An increase in two of the beetles' natural enemies in the area has helped ward off the blight according to Eskridge. Both woodpeckers and a special species of fungus that kills the beetles have appeared around infested trees.

Eskridge said that if there is a serious attack of the beetles in the spring it is doubtful that they can be stopped at all.

Students who suspect pines being infested should contact the Forest Service immediately at 942-4564.

Weather

TODAY: Sunny and cold, high in the upper 30's. Clear tonight, low near 20. Near zero per cent chance of precipitation through tonight.

Grad students disagree Polling places debated

by Bob Ripley
Staff Writer

In a brief special session Monday, the Student Legislature (SL) debated the placement of ballot boxes for the upcoming Feb. 6 campus elections.

No final vote was taken on the bill, partly because the quorum was broken after 45 minutes when legislators began leaving the meeting.

Controversy on the bill centered on the voting areas designed for graduate student

use. Rep. Jim Becker indicated the discrimination of graduate and professional students in past elections was due to the significantly lower number of polling places for these students.

Becker, a member of the Rules Committee, suggested a new system where the graduate students would vote by departments. This would result in 26 new polling places.

However, some members of SL doubted whether the Elections Board

could adequately staff and control the larger number of polling positions.

In compromise, Rep. Dick Baker urged that six central boxes should be set up in the areas of Odum Village, the Student Union, Y Court, the Law School, and the Health Science Library for graduate student voting.

A final decision is expected from SL in its regular session Thursday night. If no vote can be decided the issue will go before the Student Supreme Court, according to the new election laws.

Rainbow soccer - kicks for all

by Jane Ronalter
Feature Writer

A field with blacks and whites, boys and girls, little and big people, young and old, ranging in age from six to 45, all playing soccer together?

This is Rainbow Soccer, a program "that all could participate in," said Kip Ward, the founder. Ward wants to transform "Chapel Hill into the hub of soccer in the South."

Rainbow, started last year, has already snowballed from its original 400 members to 1200 and has had goalie Mike Brown named All-American soccer player and photographed for the "Faces in the Crowd" section of "Sports Illustrated."

But more than this, Rainbow is a group of individuals interested in soccer and having a good time playing together. Traditional emphasis on winning and losing has been eliminated. In Rainbow, "score" doesn't matter. "Playing wins," explained Ward. "Individuals are enriched by Rainbow and it enriches the town."

The town's response to this non-profit organization has been more than good. "It has been amazing," said Captain Anson Dorrance. "The community is immensely grateful. They think Rainbow is an amusing and fine

thing."

Rainbow is funded by contributions from the community, although they are currently working to raise money for next year by themselves. But various other services are performed by active community residents. They help with the coaching and car pools if they aren't active participants in the game.

Some people that aren't normally expected to be "active participants" are the women who made up over one-third the force last year. Captain Dorrance said he hoped that this year's team would be at least half women. Ward explained that, "University athletics offer little outlet for girls," but that Rainbow allows them to play as equals. There is no bias against girls in Rainbow.

"Women are encouraged to play if they can do the job. Everyone competes on the same level so that women can play like everyone else," Dorrance said. Even the rules have been changed so that fewer injuries result to the Rainbow players.

Rainbow has seen some encouraging results during its first year of existence. Chapel Hill High School (one of Rainbow's four Leagues) won the State Soccer Championship. Varsity players are improving. "Extra-ordinary soccer players are developing," said Ward.

Rainbow is divided into four Leagues (elementary, junior high, high school, and college). Each League is structured into twelve Clubs with four teams each (one for each different age level). Clubs practice twice a week. Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays. Rainbow's large size makes it necessary for three different games to be played on three separate fields at the same time. As a result, 24 games are played each weekend!

A membership drive complete with posters has been underway to recruit UNC students.

Joining the Rainbow Soccer League is a very simple process. People enter as individuals and are placed on a certain team. No dorm rivalry is involved. Students interested in playing on the Rainbow League are asked to contact Dorrance at 108 Ehringhaus.

Spring season 1973 will consist of a ten-week season beginning March 1st. Practices will be held on Kennedy and Muirhead Fields.

For those who know nothing about the game, but would still like to participate, two preliminary clinics have been set up before the regular season starts "to teach the fundamentals of the game to people who have never played before," Dorrance said. These clinics will be held Feb. 17 and 24.

Rainbow soccer is a game the whole family and, it seems, the whole community can play.



Damage to a tree stricken by southern pine beetles is pointed out by Cam Eskridge of the N.C. Forest Service. Below the knife blade is a tunnel dug by one of the beetles. See related story above photo. (Staff Photo by Scott Stewart)