

The ultimate jump?

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the sport since its first lessons in 1971. According to instructor Tony Cockrell 2,600 student-jumps have been made. Out of any given class, half of the students will make only one jump; many go on to make 25 or more. The average student will make three jumps after completing the lessons. Cockrell said that all students have about the same reaction after each jump: a state of complete euphoria, exhilaration and a desire to do it again. "Right when you get down, it's just an incredible high," he said. His most recent students were inclined to agree. Most of them said it was one of the most exhilarating things they've ever done.

"It was the highlight of my freshman year. It was just a fantastic experience, especially since it was something I had always wanted to do," Mark Mann, from Cary, N.C., said.

Monte Thompson, a freshman from Ahoskie, N.C., said, "It was great. I had never imagined it would be this much fun."

One of the three female members of the class expressed a bit of disappointment in the experience. "I was thinking that if I was more conscious when I was falling it would be more fun. I felt better when I got an 'A' on my English

paper," Maureen Chambers, a sophomore from Manahawkin, N.J., said. Also, Chambers said she enjoyed her second jump more than the first.

Many of the students gave the same reasons for deciding to learn skydiving—an acquaintance who participated in the sport, a desire to be able to say, "I've gone skydiving" or just for the fun of it.

"I took it on a dare from a friend who's in the club," Pamela Mackey, a sophomore from Pisgah Forest, N.C., said.

No student in the skydiving class expressed any fear before his first jump. All said they felt thoroughly ready for any emergency situations that might come up.

The soberest night of lessons was the second night, when students were introduced to all types of emergency situations, ranging from tangled canopies to landing in power lines. However, Cockrell emphasized repeatedly to the class, "If you get hurt in this sport, it's because of something stupid you did." Cockrell, who is tall and slim and has made well over 1000 jumps, kept the class's confidence up, saying, "Anything would break my bones." He has never been injured while skydiving.

Another thing which kept the confidence of the class high was a device called a Sentinel, which automatically opens the student's reserve parachute at 1000 feet if he has failed to take emergency actions. Cockrell emphasized that any skydiver should have ample time to take emergency action before the Sentinel functions, however.

By the time the lessons were over, all the students were confident of their ability to handle any emergency situation.

Most of the students said they left the class with a changed attitude about the sport. Instructors Cockrell and Mike Wilson, another club member who teaches emergency procedures, left students with a deep impression of the sport's safety.

Before a freak accident on Sunday, Feb. 7 in which Chris Alvan, a freshman from Greenville,



N.C., was killed, the club had never had a student sustain a serious injury. Alvan died when he cut away from his canopy which was tangled in a tree where he landed and a suspension line caught his helmet as he fell. Cockrell said the coroner on the scene commented that the chances of such an accident happening were "unbelievably slim."

The cost of skydiving lessons from the UNC Parachute Club are \$35 for lessons and \$10 per static line jump. A minimum of five static line jumps (jumps in which the chute is automatically opened from a line attached to a snap inside the plane) must be made before a student can make freefall jumps, which cost between \$3 and \$6 depending on the altitude they are made from. Lessons can cost more than \$100 when taken from other skydiving schools. Information on taking lessons can be obtained by calling the UNC Club at 929-2315.

Miller and Moss to battle in runoff

by Karen Millers
Staff Writer

For the past few weeks, students have been barraged with issues, platforms and smiling candidates. The scenario reached its climax Feb. 9 when 5,472 persons voted and the returns were tallied. Most of the candidates relaxed and took a few days off to sleep.

But Mark Miller and Bill Moss, who will meet in a runoff for student body president Wednesday, redoubled their efforts to sway students to their side.

"During the first election there were a lot of reasons for people to vote," Moss said, pointing to the greater number of candidates.

"Generally it is more difficult to get people to vote in a runoff," he said.

Moss said that the basic issue is a clear-cut decision between what he terms Miller's project-oriented continuance of present programs and his own major emphasis of representing the students and opening up Student Government (SG).

"You have to have a full platform," Moss said, acknowledging his own list of projects. He said a candidate's emphasis is a matter of priorities. His first priority would be to represent students, organize a staff and delegate people to carry out projects.

Miller disagreed that his platform represents a strict continuance of existing programs.

"I think I'm the one who's proposing innovative ideas and programs," Miller said. He added that there should be a continuity in SG or it would lose its potential.

Both candidates said their platforms have remained basically the same, although

Miller said he has picked up a few ideas from students as he has campaigned door to door.

The only other campuswide runoff will be for Carolina Athletic Association president. David Royale will face Gary Mason in that race.

The following Campus Governing Council (CGC) districts will have runoffs for CGC seats:

District 4, Fred Goss and Ira Friedlander; District 16, Bill Hamby and Ken Smith; District 17, Vaughn Ramsey and Nancy Mattox; District 18, Phil Searcy and Keith Head. David Finklestein was determined winner of the CGC District 19 seat.

Diane Shafer will face Brian Wirwicz in a

special runoff Feb. 23 for CGC District 7 seat. Shafer won by 10 votes over Wirwicz in the election Feb. 9, but the Elections Board ruled those results void after finding that at least 10 persons who should have voted in District 7 voted in another district.

He said the board also ruled earlier on a complaint by Shafer that Wirwicz had campaign material circulated that misrepresented Shafer's past CGC record. The ruling was in Shafer's favor, and the board directed Wirwicz to distribute material clarifying the original statements.

Brown said the runoff was postponed to Feb. 23 to allow both candidates sufficient time to campaign.

Board sets Union activities

by Charlene Havnaer
Staff Writer

A casino night, a car rally and entrance in The National College Quiz Bowl are among the activities planned for students this semester by the recreation committee of the Carolina Union Activities Board.

A casino night complete with crap games, roulette wheels and horse races for the gambler to bet on will be held March 2 from 8 to 12 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Carolina Union.

Admission is free and each person will be given \$30 in play money to gamble with. At the end of the evening, prizes ranging from autographed basketballs to gift certificates from area residents and stores will be auctioned off to the highest bidders.

The Union billiards tables and bowling lanes also will be operating at reduced rates for the night.

A car rally is being planned for the end of March or the first of April, according to Michael Cannon, chairperson of the recreation committee.

Cars with standard equipment, a pencil, paper, clipboard and any simple timepiece will enter in an unequipped class. Cars equipped with prepared mileage and speed tables and other mechanical devices such as slide rules will enter in a navigational class, and cars using any rally equipment other than a two-way radio will enter in an equipped class.

There will be an entry fee of approximately \$2, according to Cannon.

Another project being planned by the committee is recruiting a team from UNC to enter the National College Quiz Bowl.

To participate in the event schools must hold 10 intramural quiz games and choose their teams from these.

The intramural games will be held Monday through Thursday from 7 to 11 p.m. the week of Feb. 28, according to Cannon.

Interested persons must form a team of five people—four contestants and an alternate. Each team may have a faculty adviser.

Entry forms will be available at the Union desk on Feb. 16. The deadline for entry is Feb. 23. Only full-time students may participate.



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