

Take acronym of SOTA Older students form organization

By MELINDA STOVALL
Staff Writer

A group of 30 UNC students got together a few weeks ago and officially adopted the acronym SOTA to describe their organization's members — Students Older Than Average.

The students represent a fraction of the 660 students over age 35 who registered at UNC this fall. Between 60 and 100 of the students are active SOTA members, according to Lynda Stone, a major force behind efforts to organize older UNC students.

The 660 older students include both evening college and part-time students. About half the students attend evening college, and the majority of the other half are "graduate students."

Of the older students working on doctorates, who are classified as full-time students, and the students aged 25 to 35 were added to the 660 older students, the entire group would make up more than 20 percent of the student body, Stone estimates.

"Since we comprise a substantial segment of the student body, we need to be unified," Stone says. "But we don't want to present the

image that our needs aren't being met or that we aren't interested, but that our needs are different from younger adults.

"We aren't interested in becoming a moaning group. We just need a way or channel to use our student fees, which aren't taken advantage of as a rule. For example, many older students would be interested in having two dinners a year rather than, say, free passes to football games.

Some of the needs recognized by older students include:

- More classes offered through evening college.
- Academic and vocational counseling, including review sessions in algebra, notetaking and leadership skills.
- Elimination of the physical education requirement.
- Establishment of a resource center on campus that would recognize the special needs of the older student.
- Elimination of the \$10,000 borrowing limit on loans through the government, especially for older students with families.
- Representation in student governing bodies such as the Campus Governing Council.
- Opportunity to provide service to the University by making use of the older

student's real-world experience at a pay scale commensurate with his ability and experience.

Stone suggests a service on campus designed specifically for the older student which would handle, for example, the standard forms sent to students. "I know of one student," Stone says, "whose grades were sent to her 81-year-old father in California." She also recommends an orientation for older students like the one held for young adult freshmen.

"We do not want to be identified with the 'middle-age homemaker syndrome' because many of the older students were extremely active in professional or volunteer work before returning to school," Stone says. "They were successful in their occupations and weren't dissatisfied at all.

"We really are a great bunch of people who are trying to enhance our education. However, while it is invigorating to be with youth, we, the older students, need a social identity, a chance to reaffirm our adulthood."

In addition, bag luncheons are held. Approximately 100 older students attended the last luncheon. The next one is scheduled for noon to 2 p.m. Monday in Rooms 202-204 of the Carolina Union.



A group of 30 students has formed the organization Students Older Than Average. One of the organizers, Lynda Stone, says, "Since we comprise a substantial segment of the student body, we need to be unified."

Battle to fill vacancy in area's Superior Court

Gov. Jim Hunt has appointed Chapel Hill attorney Gordon Battle to the vacant Superior Court judgeship in Orange and Chatham counties.

Battle, 45, a partner in the law firm Battle & Bayliss, is former president of the Orange County Bar Association and the 15th Judicial District Bar Association.

The appointee has a B.A. degree in business administration and a law degree from UNC. While in law school, he was associate editor of *The Law Review*. He has been a practicing attorney since 1958.

As Superior Court judge, Battle will sit on the bench in Hillsborough and Pittsboro for Orange and Chatham counties.

Hunt chose Battle over Hillsborough attorneys Lucius Cheshire and Dalton Loflin. "All the nominees were highly qualified," the governor said in a prepared statement.

"These were tough decisions to make," Hunt said. "I believe Gordon Battle will do an excellent job of helping us fight crime by improving our court system in North Carolina."

Israel accepts Sadat's peace talk bid

Israel formally accepted Egypt's invitation to a Cairo conference on Middle East peace Monday, but indications were that Egypt, Israel and the United States might be the only ones there.

The Egyptian invitation and Israel's acceptance were conveyed through their UN ambassadors, a move that bypassed the U.S. as intermediary.

But Israel, which announced that its delegation would be led by a former top spy, was the only country so far to officially accept. In Washington, administration officials said the United States will also attend but that an official announcement will be delayed while the decision is coordinated with other parties.

In Damascus, Syrian President Hafez

Assad suddenly softened his criticism of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat but then, in another surprise move ordered air traffic to Cairo halted until further notice.

stand somewhere between the two sides by ruling out participation at either conference. The PLO already has refused to attend the Cairo summit.

The meetings Sunday and Monday between the Israeli and Egyptian U.N. ambassadors broke three decades of diplomatic ice and resulted in an irate PLO.

news briefs

Assad told reporters that while Egypt and Syria were in disagreement, they were not divorced. Radio announcements said the air traffic had been suspended because of Egyptian mistreatment of arriving Syrian passengers.

Syria and other Arab hardliners also moved ahead with plans for an anti-Sadat summit, although they were undecided on which nation should host it. Jordan took a

Natural gas impasse

WASHINGTON — Sen. Henry Jackson, chairperson of the Senate energy committee, warned Monday if the natural gas industry maintains its demand for price deregulation, Congress will not pass any reform measure for use of the fuel this year.

Jackson, D-Wash., put new pressure on the industry to accept a compromise that would raise the price ceiling on natural gas more than 25 percent. If no bill emerges, prices will stay at their current level of \$1.46 per thousand cubic feet.

Rhodesia attacks guerillas

SALISBURY, Rhodesia — Rhodesian troops drove 136 miles inside Mozambique last week and killed more than 1,200 black nationalist guerrillas in air and ground attacks that destroyed two guerrilla base camps, the military command said Monday.

The attacks, unprecedented in scope and ferocity, began last Wednesday at the same time Prime Minister Ian Smith was unveiling a plan to bring peace to Rhodesia through a one-man, one-vote majority rule settlement with Rhodesia-based nationalist leaders. Nationalist leaders outside Rhodesia rejected the plan and vowed to continue their five-year guerrilla war.

Progression of integration recalled

Continued from page 1.

applications from blacks who were interested in coming here."

Black Student Movement leaders gave Chancellor Sitterson a list of demands for black students in the fall of 1968, a year after the organization was formed. The 23 demands were

designed to "promote the needed constructive changes." They included the hiring of a dean of black students, the addition of Afro-American studies and the offering of more scholarships and grants to black students. The BSM also wanted increased recruitment of black students and changes in admission standards to emphasize high school performance rather than standardized test

scores.

"I replied to the demands item by item, rejecting most because I thought they were not practicable," Sitterson said. He said admission practices must have some standardization and the University did not wish to create a special office that catered to a single segment of the student body.

The University did not increase its recruitment of black students. Sitterson appointed Hayden (Bennie) Renwick, a black graduate of UNC, as assistant director of admissions in 1969.

Black enrollment increased rapidly during the late '60s and early '70s, and by 1973 almost 1,000 black students attended UNC. Sitterson said the increase resulted from visits by Renwick and members of the BSM to predominately black high schools.

"At that time, high schools were still considered either white or black high schools, and UNC had not been known to visit the black high schools," Sitterson said. "Black students went out to these high schools and recruited other blacks to come to UNC."

In the 27 years since the first black students entered UNC's law school, the number of black students has grown to approximately 1,300. But during the same period, the total enrollment has grown from 6,000 to 20,000, so blacks still represent less than 7 percent of the total student body.

Tomorrow, Black students and administrators comment on black student life at UNC.

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