

PSO program integrates fire, police departments

By MICHAEL WADE
Staff Writer

Most Chapel Hill officials are pleased with the progress of the town's two-year-old public safety officer (PSO) program, despite some objections to the program from town employees.

The program began in October 1975 when the town hired 15 persons in an effort to improve flexibility and efficiency in the police and fire departments.

Public safety officers are hired at the same starting salary as police officers and are trained in both law enforcement and fire fighting. They also are trained as emergency medical technicians, and they serve as patrolling police officers who meet firefighters at the scene of fires.

According to officials, the arrangement allows the town to take better advantage of available personnel because the officer serves as a patrolling police officer if there are no calls for firefighters.

"Taking everything into account, I think the progress of the program has been good," Town Manager Kurt Jenne said. Jenne said the town employs 21 PSOs and seven police officers who are cross-trained to work with the fire department.

Jenne said he thinks the major advantages of the program are added flexibility in scheduling replacements for police officers and firefighters taking leave, quicker response to emergency calls and increased contact between citizens and the police and firefighters in the neighborhoods.

Because PSOs are trained in both fields, an officer can replace either a firefighter or police officer on leave, Jenne said. Because they are always patrolling in police cars equipped with firefighting equipment, they can reach the scene of an emergency faster than firefighters he said, in some cases saving lives.

Public safety officers patrol the same zones covered by the town's three fire stations, so they bring citizens in each of the areas closer to the public servants, Jenne said. And when the PSO program began, police zones were altered to coincide with fire zones.

As a result, William D. Blake, assistant town manager for public safety, who monitors the program, said citizens can communicate with police through the PSO at their neighborhood fire stations rather than having to go downtown to the police station.

Jenne said the town now hires all new police officers on the condition that they will train to become public safety officers. He said police officers who were hired before the program began can take the cross-training on a volunteer basis, and police say many officers are doing so.

According to Officer Ben Callahan of the Chapel Hill police, more officers want to take the training than time allows. Callahan said some officers want to take the training because PSO work is more challenging.

"They (PSOs) love the work," he said. "Some of them are more police-oriented, and some are more fire-oriented. They stay a lot more busy than a patrolman."

Although PSOs have helped solve some cases of intentionally set fires because their police training helps them spot signs of arson, Callahan said that once PSOs answer a fire call, they do not make arrests. "Once he's there, he's strictly a fireman. He will not drop his hose to arrest somebody."

PSOs spend about 95 percent of their time working as police officers. They work as firefighters only during actual fire calls, Callahan said.

The effectiveness of both the fire and police departments has not dropped since the PSO program began, according to Jenne.

Although the number of full-time firefighters working on each shift dropped from 12 to nine after the program began (with three patrolling PSOs serving to replace them), Fire Chief Everette Loyd said, "I think two people in the station is sufficient. The town is covered at all times."

At present, the town has 21 public safety officers, but Jenne said there may be more in the future. He said PSOs can choose between the police and fire departments and can be promoted into higher positions in the field they choose to pursue.

Jenne said ultimately almost all the police officers and firefighters, including officers, may have training in both areas of service.

McGovern, Schlesinger, others in NCSU symposium

A symposium entitled "Alternative Futures" will be held Monday through Thursday in Stewart Theater on the N.C. State campus.

The schedule of the symposium, which is free, is as follows:

Monday

Science fiction film, *THX-1138*, at 2 p.m.
Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and writer, "America and the New Age," 4 p.m.

Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., "America's Impoverished Spirit," 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Rollo May, author, theologian and psychoanalyst, "Man-Creativity and the Future," 4 p.m.

Charles Frankel, humanist, author and educator, "The American Landscape, an Expression of Our Values?" 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Film: *Survival of Spaceship Earth*, 2 p.m.
Jean-Michel Cousteau, architect, writer, historian and son of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, "Man's Penetrations of the Oceans," 4 p.m.
Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., "The Renewable Resource Revolution," 7:30 p.m.
Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., "Nutrition and Agricultural Policy," 9 p.m.

Thursday

Sam Love, environmentalist, writer and energy consultant, "Visions of Tomorrow," 4 p.m.

Robert Hoffman, Assistant Professor of University Studies, NCSU, "Technology and Appropriate Technology," 7 p.m.

Gerard O'Neill, Princeton University physicist, "The Colonization of Space," 8 p.m.

Due to Stewart Theater's seating capacity of approximately 800, admission will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Committee agrees on ordinance Aldermen to receive maximum noise proposal

By RACHEL BROWN
Staff Writer

A special committee agreed Wednesday night on an ordinance setting maximum noise levels for Chapel Hill. The proposal will be sent to the Board of Aldermen for consideration.

Two time periods will be covered by the ordinance. During the day, levels should not exceed 65 decibels, according to the recommendations. After 11 p.m. on weeknights and 1 a.m. on weekends, the maximum level will be 55 decibels. Measurements will be taken from 75 feet.

The committee also decided to draw up a resolution allowing use of special permits to be available from the police. When issued, such permits allow the sound level to exceed

the regular maximum levels by 20 decibels.

UNC physics Prof. Marvin Silver, chairperson of the committee which was appointed last November by Mayor James C. Wallace, said the resolution sets general guidelines for issuing permits. "One would anticipate a large number of requests for certain occasions," Silver said. These include, he said, football games at UNC, the Apple Chill Festival and parades.

The resolution urges the police to be more receptive to requests for special permits at such times, he said.

Early next week, Silver said, a small subcommittee will draft the resolution. After the full committee approves it, he said he will submit a short report to Mayor Wallace. The board of aldermen may vote on the

ordinance at its last meeting in February or at its first meeting in March, he said.

When a noise ordinance is approved by the aldermen, Police Chief Herman Stone said his officers will not wait for complaints to be lodged before monitoring noise levels. The amount of monitoring, he said, will depend upon available manpower.

"The basis of the ordinance is good when it is considered from the noise-pollution point-of-view," Silver said. "We felt 65 and 55 decibels were reasonable levels from which to start. It is easy to lower levels, if necessary, but hard to raise them."

The typical sound level in a quiet, residential neighborhood late at night is 50 decibels or less, Silver said. "In a very typical, highly industrialized area with

factories, the level at night would be about 70.

College Park, Md., Silver said, is limited to a daytime level of 60 decibels and a nighttime level of 50. Baltimore's daytime level is about 58, and its nighttime level is 53, he said.

When a reading goes up five decibels, he said, the intensity increases three times. "For every increase of 10 decibels, the sound intensity increases 10 times," Silver said.

Bill Moss, UNC student body president and a member of the committee, said he thinks the recommendations represent a fair and workable solution.

R. L. Adams, president of the UNC Interfraternity Council, was unavailable for comment. He served on the committee as the representative of University students.



Patty Hearst

psO

Continued from page 1.

Woody, who has been to 50 or 60 fire calls as a PSO, said that when there is a fire, the time advantage of arriving before the firefighters is lost because he must dress in fire-fighting gear, stored in the trunk of his patrol car, and he usually isn't ready when the firefighters, already dressed, arrive.

Woody, one of the original 15 PSOs hired by the town in October 1975, said he does not believe he is trained thoroughly except as a police officer. "I'd either like to be a sure policeman or a sure fireman."

Although Winston-Salem's fire department works with PSOs and still maintains a 24-hour shift, both Jenne and Fire Chief Everette Loyd said that wouldn't work in Chapel Hill. Jenne said that PSOs have to be on the same shift as both police and firefighters to be able to fill in for personnel in either department taking leave, which he said is one of the program's major advantages. Loyd said that the town's fire losses have dropped since the program began, although the amount of fire loss in the town is always variable.

Both Jenne and Loyd said the PSO program is more practical than having three full-time firefighters on duty at each station because the majority of all fire calls don't involve fires serious enough to lay hose.

Loyd added that without the eight-hour shift, it would be difficult to give firefighting training to the PSOs in the program. He said PSOs are trained on the second and third shifts, when firefighters on a 24-hour shift would be asleep.

"It's my duty to support the program," Loyd said. "I will still support it 100 percent no matter what happens. I think it's the most productive system."

Loyd admitted that morale within the fire department had dropped with the change in shifts, but he said he thinks it is increasing again.

Jenne said he thinks that in the long run the town would benefit more from the program if the firefighters stayed on the eight-hour shifts. "Perhaps a lot of the criticism is a little bit shortsighted," he said.

Hearst lawyers file to overturn conviction

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for Patricia Hearst, making a final effort to keep her heirless from returning to prison, asked the Supreme Court Thursday to overturn her 1976 bank robbery conviction.

The appeal came just two days before the fourth anniversary of Hearst's kidnapping, to which she attributes her string of run-ins with the law.

The government has 30 days in which to reply to her petition for review, after which the Supreme Court justices will decide whether she has raised legal issues warranting their consideration.

If review is denied, she must begin serving the seven-year prison sentence imposed in the bank robbery case by U.S. District Judge William Orrick of San Francisco.

Anwar Sadat, on his way to crucial Washington talks with President Carter on how to break the Middle East peace deadlock, Thursday conferred with King Hassan II, the strongest Arab supporter of

news briefs

his peace initiative.

Only 800 miles away, in neighboring Algeria, five anti-Sadat Arab hardliners — Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and the PLO — opened a summit session to plot ways to thwart the Egyptian peace drive.

Anti-abortion setback

WASHINGTON — House liberals, uniting against attempts to attach anti-abortion language to a variety of bills, helped vote down Thursday one such move on a bill to give working women medical benefits equal to those of men.

The House employment opportunities subcommittee took the action in approving a

Senate-passed bill to overcome the 1976 Supreme Court ruling that employers who exclude pregnancy and childbirth from medical coverage plans are not engaging in sex discrimination.

The legislation provides that "women affected by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions" cannot be excluded from medical or disability benefits that go to men they work with.

It would exempt employers who do not offer an overall medical benefit plan for their workers.

Calls oppose treaties

WASHINGTON — Telephone calls to the White House ran 4-1 against the Panama Canal treaties after President Carter's televised speech urging the public to accept them, press secretary Jody Powell said Thursday.

Powell said 250 calls were received and only 50 of those favored the treaties, despite Carter's fireside statement Wednesday night that the accords are "right for us and fair to others."

Varsity
Winner of 2 Golden Globe awards
Best Picture/Drama
Best Director/Herbert Ross

ANNE BANCROFT SHIRLEY MACLAINE
The Turning Point
PG

SHOWS: 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

Sorry No Passes

Varsity
LATE SHOWS
Fri. & Sat. Night
12:00 All Seats \$2.00
Double Feature
"Ecstasy"
starring Johnny "the Wadd" Holmes and "S.O.S."
Rated X

CHapel Hill
Plaza 1
Held Over
7th Big Week

SHOWS: 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

BURT REYNOLDS
"SEMI-TOUGH"
United Artists

CHapel Hill
Plaza 2
Held Over
3rd Big Week

SHOWS: 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER
JOHN TRAVOLTA
A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

CHapel Hill
Plaza 3
Held Over
7th Big Week

SHOWS: 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

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MASHA MASON

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No Matinees on Weekdays

3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

THE Daily Crossword by Ruth N. Schultz

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 20 Other, in Mexico | 31 Parties in a contest | 63 202, to Calpurnia | 18 New ball player |
| 1 Alda or Arkin | 21 They will reap later | 33 Flashily dressed ones | 64 Correct: comb. form | 22 Amazement |
| 5 One against | 23 Plant freak | 37 Sang a certain way | 65 Lack | 23 Make very thirsty |
| 9 Diamond men | 25 Del Rio or Gray | 39 — halfway (be conciliatory) | 66 Sound of regret | 24 To speak: Lat. |
| 13 Dissipated ones | 26 Sandarac | 41 Therefore | 67 Beginning | 25 Color |
| 15 Broadway sign | 27 Florida feature | 42 To have: Fr. abbr. | DOWN | 28 Group of noise poems |
| 16 Dollhouse dweller | 29 Bus. letter abbr. | 44 Vehicle | 1 Curve | 31 Villainous expressions |
| 17 Take the easy way | 30 Stoolie | 45 These: Fr. | 2 Gehrig or Costello | 32 Air pollution |
| 19 Active one | | 47 Humpty Dumpty, for one | 3 Robot | 34 Professional degree |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

LENT	NOOSE	SLDT
ARIA	ASABE	TIDE
HICROMETER	ERIN	
DEBTLESS	MIDLAND	
BASES	REL	
GARBANA	PARTAKERS	
UNIT	KAM	ERODE
ENS	REPTILIAN	WAGS
SULFA	ONYX	SLAP
SLEEPING	CLEAR	
NIP	SALON	
VIEDDED	PANSIDE	
ASIO	CONTINUOUS	
FLOW	APPER	ANAT
TENS	CARRS	MADE

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Pentax Demo & Sale

Mr. Joe Mann, Pentax Sales Representative, will be at PHOTOsynthesis from 3 to 9 PM this Friday and from 10 AM-2PM on Saturday to show you the complete line of Pentax cameras and accessories. Stop in and get acquainted with PENTAX! With the purchase of any Pentax Camera during the demonstration, you can buy a 135 mm f/3.5 SMC Pentax Lens for HALF of suggested list. A \$199.50 value for only \$99.75.

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3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30