

On

Campus

According to Ned Comar of the University Police, "a substantial tree limb fell in front of New West Tuesday," during the high winds. Reported at 6:25 p.m., the Grounds Department cut up the limb Wednesday. There was no damage done to the area, he said.

University Police also reported that the vandal who stole Spencer Dorm's Christmas tree earlier this week has returned it.

Ellen Wilbur, STOW Area Director, said the tree was "dropped off" Tuesday afternoon in the parking lot behind Spencer. She said the tree was returned with no decorations and the top portion had been cut off.

If you'd like to really get to know someone from another country, now is your chance. The UNC International Center is looking for families to take visiting international students into their homes for the holidays. The 29 students will be here from Dec.

18-27 as part of an Agency for International Development Mid-Winter Seminar. The students are studying at colleges and universities in the United States. Interested? Contact the International Center at 962-5661.

Get into the Christmas spirit of giving this week and donate canned goods to be distributed to needy families. The Orange County area of the North Carolina State Employees Association, Inc., is gathering the food and will distribute it to local families of state employees. Boxes are located at various locations on campus and at North Carolina Memorial Hospital. Deadline for picking up the donations is Dec. 16.

UNC president William C. Friday received the Distinguished Service award from the Dental Foundation of North Carolina last week. He was recognized for his contributions to the School of Dentistry, the foundation and the dental health of North Carolinians.

Friday was also an honored guest last week at the North Carolina Society of New York's annual dinner dance.

New ruling means student groups' mailing costs go up

By ANDY HODGES
Staff Writer

A recent ruling on bulk mailing procedures means added expenses and inconvenience for some of UNC's student organizations.

In the past, organizations that were officially recognized by the University were allowed the use of the special bulk mailing permit, which was issued to the University because of its non-profit status. The permit allowed mailing of 200 or more pieces to be sent at 5.2 cents apiece. Within the last few months, however, U.S. Postal Service authorities have notified the University that it can no longer permit student groups to use the special rate.

"It is my understanding that it was their (Postal authorities') interpretation of the law that student organizations did not fit into the description of non-profit organizations as it applied to the University," said Shirley Hunter, an assistant dean in the department of student life.

Gene Skipper, who has been acting postmaster of Chapel Hill for about six weeks, agreed that the change in procedure was not the result of a change in the law but rather a ruling on the current law. He said the permit was issued specifically to the University and it could delegate the use of the permit to other groups, organizations or functions outside the University.

Skipper said that since he has been

postmaster for only a short time he does not know how the mailings of the student groups originally came to the attention of Postal Service officials.

But Skipper said he does know that the Chapel Hill postmaster contacted the Postal Service's rates and classifications office in Charlotte before taking any action.

Lee Mullis, production coordinator for the Carolina Gay Association's newsletter, said that the CGA was the first UNC group contacted about the ruling. He said he has been notified verbally by someone from the University's mail room in the summer and he received a letter from the Postal Service in September saying the CGA and other organizations would no longer be able to use the special rates authorized to the University.

The Postal Service is also billing the CGA \$90 for mailing done during the last fiscal year, Mullis said. He said that such action is legal but that he considers it unjust.

Mullis said the \$90 charge is the difference in the non-profit bulk rate that the group was charged and the regular bulk rate that it should have been charged.

Richard Owens, chairman of the Student Consumer Action Union, said that SCAU was not billed for past mailings but that the change does mean added expenses because it came when the organization was preparing to mail out 4,000 survey forms. He said SCAU was

charged a base price of \$40 plus 9.3 cents for each piece mailed.

Lisa Granberry, editor of the 1983-84 *Yackety Yack*, said the change has been just an inconvenience for the yearbook staff at this point. She said that since the *Yack* staff was budgeted under the old, non-profit rates, it has postponed mailings until it can find another way to mail items for less than the normal rates.

According to Dorothy Bernholz, director of Student Legal Services, the student groups have two alternatives in dealing with the mailing problem.

"The groups will have to get their own bulk rate permits... or they will have to incorporate themselves in such a fashion as to have a non-profit status," she said.

To get its own permit, a group would have to pay \$40 for the permit itself, \$40 a year for a base fee and 11 cents for each

piece mailed. Hunter said many organizations might find the costs prohibitive and would therefore choose not to buy the permit.

Bernholz said she would eventually like to see a large body formed that could incorporate and represent the individual groups in legal and financial affairs. She said the diversity of interests that the individual groups represent, however, might be a problem.

Campus Governing Council Treasurer Burke Mewborne said the possibility of the CGC's obtaining a permit for use by the groups it funds has been mentioned in finance committee meetings.

But, he said, "In order to do that we would have to incorporate, and that would present new problems," he said. "In the past, the University has not been too keen on that."

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