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Maybe so, maybe not
Our highly trained staff meteorologist says we can expect a high of 58 today with a low near 28. There's also a 50 percent chance of showers decreasing to 30 percent tonight.

Roll over Bach

Need a little holiday spirit? The UNC Chamber Singers will perform portions of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* Sunday at 8 p.m. at the University Presbyterian Church.

Alcohol use and abuse increases at UNC

Second of a two-part series on substance abuse at UNC.

By LEIGH WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Chalk it up to the mood sweeping America or to the cyclical nature of fads, but whatever the reasons, alcohol consumption is up, and drinking is more popular than ever, according to Sue Gray, director of health education for UNC Health Services.

Since the Vietnam war era when drugs were popular, students are less liberal, and alcohol has become a problem, Gray said. "Students are future-oriented and politically conservative. Alcohol is acceptable and important socially," she said. In the business world, for instance, social drinking is an important skill, she said.

Each generation tends to align with their grandparents, Gray said, and like their grandparents, students now drink more and use drugs less.

All the same, Ned Comar, Crime Prevention Officer for the University Police, said that alcohol abuse and overconsumption may be on a downswing. The number of alcohol-related arrests is down from last year, he said. According to University police records, only two students have been arrested since July for driving while impaired.

'Usually, on these calls (concerning fighting), the person has had too much to drink, someone accidentally bumps them and spills their beer or whatever. Because of their low emotional tolerance level brought on by the alcohol, the person gets overly angry when the alcohol starts to think for them. In these situations, if the person had been sober, they probably wouldn't have reacted at all.' — Chapel Hill Police Master Officer Gregg Jarvis.

The Chapel Hill Police Department records tell a different story, however. Each weekend, especially during the warmer spring and fall months, the Chapel Hill police respond to between three and five calls from bars, restaurants and clubs where a student has gotten into a fight because he or she has had too much to drink, Master Officer Gregg Jarvis said.

"Usually, on these calls, the person has had too much to drink, someone accidentally bumps them and spills their beer or whatever. Because of their low emotional tolerance level brought on by the alcohol, the person gets overly angry and the alcohol starts to think for him," Jarvis said. "In these situations, if the person had been



Drugs on campus

DTH/Jamie Moncrief

sober, they probably wouldn't have reacted at all."

Doctors at Student Health may end up treating some of these people. Every semester, Gray said, many students go there with bumps on the head or cuts that require stitches because of falls or accidents they get into because they were drunk or had too much to drink.

"This year, we had some students who had drunk so much that they literally felt no pain," Gray said.

According to Gray, hypothermia is also a problem. Alcohol gives you a false sense of warmth, she said, and if temperatures are low enough and you have had enough to drink, you could actually freeze to death. At the beginning of the semester, when the temperatures first dropped into the 50s and 60s, Student Health treated several students for hypothermia, she said.

Although Student Health doesn't

keep detailed records of alcohol-related accidents, Gray said her best guess was that most of the students they see for alcohol-related accidents are freshmen and sophomores.

"Part of it has to do with the thrill of it (drinking), the ability to hold alcohol and the underclassmen's lack of acquired social skills to deal with alcohol," she said. After their sophomore year, most students have acquired those skills, and they know how much alcohol they can handle, she said.

Sophomore English major Sonia Sherrod, from Tarboro agrees. "At first because it was new, you want to get drunk because you don't have to come home to your parents. Now I am more likely to go out and drink a few beers."

Gretchen Ward, a sophomore journalism major from Tarboro, said that "at first, when I was a freshman, I drank more alcohol more often. When

the drinking age changed in October, we did a lot of drinking in our room. When I turned 19, we went out to bars instead, and I started drinking less."

"Drinking patterns change between your freshman and senior years," said Gregg Reavis, a senior math and computer science major from Winston-Salem. "When you're a freshman, it's your first time away from home. Some people didn't drink in high school or drank in the closet, but here it was very open. You could just grab your friends and go get a beer."

According to Gray, about one-third of the total population do not drink for health or religious reasons, but a high percentage of students drink socially. Of them, about one in ten go on to have a problem with alcohol, she said.

"There's a real difference between drinking with friends and drinking to solve problems," she said. Few stu-

dents come in and say "I have a problem," she said. For the ones who do have a problem, the biggest obstacle to their getting treatment is the stigma attached to it, she said.

Raising the drinking age is not the answer to alcohol abuse, Gray said, but teaching responsible drinking is. Most students get drunk at some point in college, she said, and that may be unavoidable, but usually, for most of them, it is not a habitual experience.

Sherrod's experience is fairly typical of most students' then. "When I drank more than I should, it's usually at the end of a hectic week or at a frat party listening to the band. Sometimes, when the band stops playing, I wonder, 'Can I walk home?'"

That, however, is not habitual, Sherrod said. "There have only been three or four times this semester when I've been too drunk for my own good," she said, "and the older I get, the less I drink."

Innovation

NCMH may begin new program

By KEVIN WASHINGTON
Staff Writer

North Carolina Memorial Hospital could join 26 other U.S. hospitals in performing heart transplants by late next summer, according to Dr. George F. Sheldon, surgery department chairman. Plans are currently in the preliminary stages, he said.

The concept for a heart transplant program was approved Nov. 21 by the patient care subcommittee of the medical staff executive committee, said Kathy S. Bartlett, media relations coordinator.

An official plan will be taken to the committee in January, she said. From there, the hospital's board of directors will be given a chance to review the proposal in February or March, she said.

Sheldon said he predicted the proposal would be looked at favorably by the hospital board of directors. "The technique would be an extension of our current cardiac and pulmonary program," he said.

"Approval by the subcommittee is the first step in getting a large program like this," Sheldon said. "We're looking at appropriateness to our current program, expense, value to the state and how such a program would be in keeping with the direction of the school."

Sheldon said the proposal had been under consideration for nearly two years.

Dr. Benson Wilcox, chief of NCMH's division of cardiothoracic surgery, said in an article earlier this week that NCMH specialists had visited other hospitals across the country to talk to other specialists in heart transplant programs and observe transplant operations.

Bartlett said the program might get started in July 1985 at the beginning of the new fiscal year. The hospital could handle six to 12 transplants a year.

Very few heart transplants are being done in the South, Sheldon said. The closest center performing heart transplants is the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond, he said, although Duke University Medical Center in Durham has recently set up a heart and liver transplant program. Duke performed its first liver transplant Nov. 13.

However, no heart transplants have been performed in North Carolina. Duke is waiting for its first recipient.

Sheldon said more than 800 heart transplants in the nation had been done. Heart transplant programs, pioneered at Stanford University in California, had low survival rates in the beginning because patients' bodies frequently rejected the transplanted organs.

Introduction in 1979 of cyclosporin, a drug which works against the body's rejection of transplanted organs, allowed for a higher survival rate for organ transplants. The one-year survival rate for heart transplants is now 80 percent, Sheldon said. Such drugs are the main reason the hospital is considering the transplant program, he said.

"The hospital has been doing kidney transplants for some time; we've done more than 200 of those," he said. "Transplantation immunology has opened up new opportunities for organ transplants. Heart transplants are logically the next step beyond kidneys."

"I wouldn't rule out liver and pancreas transplantations in the future," he said. "What we could do is move on to the next organ and the next one until we have an expanded transplant program."

Gays feel more acceptance in Chapel Hill

By KEVIN SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

The liberal, highly-educated atmosphere of Chapel Hill tends to be accepting of a variety of values — including those of the gay community.

"In Chapel Hill, we (homosexuals) are more tolerated than in other places," said Alice (not her real name). She is planning to enroll in UNC's graduate school in the spring. "Of course, there is always a vocal minority against what you stand for. Most people probably couldn't care less."

Several gay Chapel Hill residents, students and citizens said the University community made it easier to "come out."

"Coming out means different things to different people," Alice said. "For

most it is a rite of passage to an understanding of yourself and to actually tell someone about it.

"In my case, I began to realize that I was attracted to other women when I was in junior high," Alice said. "I tried to ignore it and it wasn't until I was in college that I came out."

Alice said the whole process of coming out was a series of wondering, "Who can I tell, who can I trust? Is it okay to kiss a woman on the first date? Will I be arrested? Will I be kicked out of school? Will I catch something?"

One UNC student said Chapel Hill wasn't so supportive of gays. "I think the people of Chapel Hill really don't like gays and they're more likely to be quiet about it," said Keith Lyall, a junior from Burlington.

Lyall's letter to the editor appeared in *The Daily Tar Heel* Wednesday and urged gays at UNC "to stand up publicly . . . or just shut up."

Lyall said UNC students felt the same way he did.

"I'd say about 60 to 80 percent of the UNC students are against gays in general. It's like nuclear war, everybody knows it's there and when you talk about it you're against it," he said.

Alice said discrimination against gays occurred, although she hadn't heard of any cases in Chapel Hill during her six months here.

"I have heard of lost jobs, harrasing phone calls, people asked to move and even vacant apartments that were not rented out (to gays)," Alice said.

Alice, who is black, said she faced

two forms of discrimination. "It means more variables that people can use to discriminate against me."

Mark (not his real name), a freshman from Connecticut, said the members of the Carolina Gay Association liked the Chapel Hill area.

"The college atmosphere was like a catalyst for me, it is conducive to coming out," Mark said. "I didn't have as much to fear or lose by coming out in college. It's just not something I would think of telling my whole high school."

"Chapel Hill is not like other small towns," Alice said. "There, the only way to meet others would be to commute or go to bars . . . not something I really enjoy."

Democrats got many Southern gay votes, speaker says

By TOM CONLON
Staff Writer

A large number of white male Southern voters for Mondale and Ferraro were probably cast by gays, said Thom Chorlton, executive director of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs, to a Gerrard Hall audience of 40 people Wednesday night.



Thom Chorlton

Chorlton, whose speech on "Gay Political Strategies After the Election" was part of the Carolina Gay Association's Gay Awareness Week activities, said gays have not been included in statistical data and surveys even though gay voters played an important role in the 1984 elections. "We could do what we're trying to do quicker if we could put numbers

down on the table and demonstrate what size constituency they're dealing with," Chorlton said. "Over the next two years, we'll be working with professional pollsters and plan to bring statistics on gay voting patterns into the open — but until then, we'll have our hands tied behind our backs."

"If you look at the white male votes of white Mondale voters in the South, I'll bet a disproportionate number of the voters were gay men and women . . . who knew the Democratic party platform was speaking to them and not the Republican platform which is speaking to Jerry Falwell, who will pick the Supreme Court," said Chorlton, a lifelong Democrat.

Chorlton urged gays to become active politically in both parties in order to promote the interests and rights of gays. He said gays had come a long way since the gay rights movement began in the 1950s, but that fundamental rights and "first-class American citizenship" had not yet been given to gays.

'... (gays) knew the Democratic party platform was speaking to them and not the Republican platform ...' — Thom Chorlton

"Where we're going is a lot tougher . . . if you don't move forward, you'll move behind," he said. "We need to zero in on areas of the country where we know we have a big job ahead of us . . . especially in the Southeastern United States."

"And over the next two years we must encourage more gay men and women to run for party office, public office and precinct chairmen — at all levels. The goal is not so much on victory as the only target, but a quality, credible campaign educates thousands."

He said statistics on gays should appear in categories such as politics,

health estimates, welfare needs and unemployment statistics to identify the trends and problems affecting homosexuals.

"Invisibility is the biggest problem affecting gays today," Chorlton said. "Invisibility is the one problem we totally control . . . we must try to end invisibility statistically. . . . We are probably the largest minority group in America."

"We have learned that the closet still lives because discrimination still lives," he said. "Gay Republicans have been more concerned with keeping the government out of their bedrooms but are not concerned with anti-discrimination measures."

Chorlton said the Democratic party had done more for gay rights and was the first major party to advocate an end to discrimination against gays in the 1980 platform. Approximately 70 delegates to the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco were gay, he said.

BSM tries to improve race relations on N. Campus

By LISA SWICEGOOD
Staff Writer

Coordinating representatives are being established in each North Campus housing area to improve the relationship between the Black Student Movement and North Campus.

James Wellons, executive assistant to the BSM, was appointed earlier this semester by BSM president Sherrod Banks to head the project.

"I've been thinking about this ever since my freshman year, and Sherrod has given me his OK to go ahead with my proposals," Wellons said.

"It's in the planning stage right now. But I definitely intend to carry them through."

"Our major obstacle is the image of BSM. People perceive it to only be for the blacks on South Campus," he said.

Wellons said BSM is not just an organization for South Campus, but is a University organization that has enriched the culture of the University.

"I think this will ultimately help ease the tension between the races on this campus."

After establishing the coordinating representatives, Wellons said he would pursue active participation in BSM functions by North Campus residents by using the representatives as liaisons between the BSM and North Campus.

Wellons said he wanted the representatives to relay information about BSM sponsored activities held on campus by putting up fliers and posters. This will be their ultimate task, Wellons said, but they will also be responsible for informing dormitory governments about the various activities.

"I want to find out what North Campus needs BSM can fulfill," he said.

Monthly meetings with the representatives to assess those needs will be held, he said.

"We hope to recruit students to participate in the activities," Wellons said he wanted the representatives to get North Campus residents interested in the activities.

"A lot of people read posters about different activities and are interested in them, but forget about them," he said. "We want to give those students that little push they need to get them involved."

Through the coordinating representatives, Wellons said he hoped to organize a major BSM function solely through the work and dedication of North Campus BSM members and the representatives.

"We hope to get prominent black and white scholars to speak at our meetings," he said.

Wellons also mentioned the possibility of having a BSM general body meeting on North Campus.

"I want input from North Campus residents. So far people have been really supportive of my ideas, he said."

Prejudice is never easy unless it can pass itself off for reason. — William Hazlitt