

N.C. Fellows Program recognizes leadership potential

By RUTHIE PIPKIN
Staff Writer

Freshmen interested in developing their leadership abilities can apply to participate in the N.C. Fellows Program at UNC.

Founded in 1967 and one of four in the state, the Fellows program strives to accelerate and support leadership ability through seminars, retreats, internships, guest speakers and group interaction, said Shirley Hunter, acting director of the program.

"We're looking for leadership types or at least those with leadership potential who demonstrate leadership qualities," Hunter said. "It's a self-selection process. If you don't apply, you don't even get considered. It's up to the student to take the first step."

In January the Fellows will send letters and applications to each of the 3,400 freshmen, inviting them to apply, Hunter said. Of the 150 freshmen applying last year, 21 were selected.

Hunter expressed concern that many potential applicants do not hear about the program in time. In talking with six Fellows recently, she said only two had said they received a letter. "The other four had just heard through word of mouth, and one said he learned at the last minute and had to rush to get his application in," she said.

Hunter stressed the need for freshmen to look for their letters upon returning from Christmas break. Anyone not receiving a letter should contact his or her RA or pick up a copy at the Student Union information desk, she said.

Hunter encouraged all interested students to apply. "There's a consciousness that freshmen do not perceive this to be an elite little club, or think, 'Oh, I just don't stand a chance,'" she said. "They don't have to be a Morehead or the son of Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So. They can be average people with ability or with interest in developing those abilities."

Past UNC Fellows include Deborah Potter, CBS newscaster; Caleb King, a Rhodes Scholar now at Harvard Medical School; Larry Ellis, currently a Rhodes Scholar; and Kenneth Smith, now studying in Europe on a Fulbright scholarship.

The selection process begins with the application, which asks questions about high school and college activities and grades and requires several essays. "We ask for grades but also look at the courses," said Fellow Kathy Noesen, a junior from Hendersonville who is working on the 1985 selection process. "Grades are not important and won't exclude anyone except if they're really floundering."

"We try to get an idea of what they're like, what their interests are, what potential they have as a leader and how interested they are in developing those leadership skills," Noesen said. "(We work) on the premise that leaders are both born and made."

After the applications the field is narrowed to around 70 students to participate in preliminary interviews, Hunter said. "From the 70, around 40 are called back for the final interview," she said. Scheduled to last the entire day of Feb. 16, the final interviews require the applicants to take alternate turns through

five questioning sessions. The students are interviewed by current Fellows, University faculty and administrators, and community and business leaders.

Once a Fellow, the freshmen embark on a retreat. "We start them thinking in terms of assessing themselves," Noesen said. During their sophomore year, the 20 or so students selected as Fellows enroll in a leadership seminar open only to them. They receive three hours credit and a grade for the class, which meets twice a week.

Fellows work on a project during their junior year and sum things up senior year with another retreat. "It's pretty much a loose structure," Noesen said. "We do have monthly dinner meetings where leaders in the community come in and speak to us. For most people the program is what they want it to be. What you put into it is what you get out of it."

The University put \$20,000 raised through Carolina Annual Giving into the program this year. Fellows programming, including workshops and retreats, takes two-thirds of the funding, and the director's salary (only partial) consumes the remaining third, Hunter said.

Other North Carolina schools supporting the program are Davidson College, N.C. A&T University and N.C. State University. Hunter said the four Fellow groups planned to hold their first mutual retreat next semester.

Interested freshmen are invited to an informational meeting today at 3:30 p.m. in room 226 of the Union.

Union party to feature door prizes, CBS videos

By EDDIE HUFFMAN
Staff Writer

Does a date with Cyndi Lauper sound appealing? How about an opportunity to be pulled up on stage by Bruce Springsteen to dance during "Dancing in the Dark"? The Carolina Union will offer a chance to dance with the stars tonight at the first-ever MusicVisions video party.

"It's a video party that's 3 1/2 hours long," Bill Wilson, chairman of the Union Social Committee said. "We'll have recent pop music plus some classics. The real surprise will be the screen. The videos will be projected on a movie screen that's as wide as the stage in Great Hall."

The party, co-sponsored by the Union, Pepsi-Cola and CBS Records, features videos performed by major CBS recording artists and prize giveaways.

Hundreds of door prizes will be given away, and the winner of a drawing will receive a pair of Bose Roomate Stereo Speakers.

"We'll have about 150 albums to give away," Wilson said. "These aren't your usual cheap cutouts; they're new records from a CBS representative on campus. He'll also provide about 200 free posters. Pretty much if you come, you'll get something."

Pepsi will be given away at the party, and beer and wine may be brought in by people with proof of age.

Proceeds from the party will go to the non-profit T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia and Cancer Research, which is funded by the music and entertainment industry.

"To date we've raised over \$8 1/2 million for cancer and leukemia

research," Martell said. "Our laboratory at Mt. Sinai has become the center for cancer research in New York. We've also established a children's center for leukemia research at USC."

"The colleges have really been a big help," Martell added. "We guard against the word 'breakthrough,' but we feel we are really making progress, particularly in the field of children's leukemia research."

Tonight's party is one of the first of its kind at an American university.

"The program has a lot of integrity because the profits go to the T.J. Martell foundation," said Amy Vennema, an assistant account executive for Creative Targets, the company that created the MusicVisions video party concept. "Right now we're doing an experiment with a number of schools. UNC is part of a test we're doing with five other schools. Next month we'll roll the program out nationwide."

CBS records will provide all of the prizes and videos at the party. Many of the biggest popular stars in America are currently on CBS, including Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson, Cyndi Lauper, Elvis Costello, and Wham U.K. "They're great videos," Wilson said. "The ones you see on MTV."

The party comes just before exams, offering a break from studying just before things get serious. "It'd be a great study break," Wilson said. "You could study, say, 'til 11 and then come over and rock hard."

The MusicVisions dance party will begin at 8 p.m. today in Great Hall in the Student Union. There will be an admission charge. Call 962-1157 for more information.

Group denounces torture of prisoners of conscience

By DORA McALPIN
Staff Writer

Several students and community members met at the Newman Center in Chapel Hill Monday night to express their concerns about ill treatment of political prisoners and to celebrate the beginning of Amnesty International's

Stop Torture Week.

Stop Torture Week will end Monday, the 35th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international law prohibiting torture.

At the meeting, local AI members signed a written proclamation to abolish torture. The proclamation will be sent to government officials in Brazil, the Soviet Union and the Philippines, calling for government action to correct reported cases of the physical and psychological torture of prisoners of conscience in their countries.

Examples of this type of abuse were shown in "Victims of Torture," a television program that aired Jan. 23, 1984. In the show, a woman arrested in 1976 for political activism in Paraguay said of her jailers, "... They're animals. They're total animals. They rape your body, your soul, and it takes a very long time to construct yourself again as a human being ... I disintegrated in that jail. I was nothing."

During her five-month incarceration, Melina Rodriguez reportedly was beaten and submitted to electric shocks repeatedly by government officials.

AI is a worldwide human rights organization whose members work on behalf of prisoners of conscience — people who are imprisoned anywhere for their race, religion or political beliefs and who have not used or advocated violence. AI also is opposed to torture and the death penalty in all cases.

"The people we work to help have not committed any violence," said Bruce Tindall, local AI coordinator. "Their only crime is in expressing views that oppose those of the government leaders."

Each local AI group adopts one or two prisoners of conscience, and group members write letters to government officials on behalf of these prisoners, Tindall said.

According to the organization's 1984 report, AI has over 500,000 members, supporters, and subscribers in over 150 countries and territories.

While AI members do not claim credit for the release of prisoners they helped, the 23-year-old organization was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for its work, Tindall said.

According to one local group member, Rod Gluck, AI does not take full credit for prisoner releases since other influences can help effect a release. But Gluck said he felt AI's work was a significant contributing factor.

Stop Torture Week was planned as a part of AI's two-year Campaign To Abolish Torture, begun in April. The purpose of this campaign is not only to work for the abolition of torture but also to fight against specific acts of torture done by or allowed by governments, Tindall said.

Many countries that have ratified international documents condemning torture still allow torture of prisoners and thus violate the treaty conditions, Tindall said.

"We feel that the only way to help abolish torture is to publicize reports

of it," he said. "By doing this, we put pressure on those governments that allow torture. While this in itself won't abolish torture, it may help in some cases."

According to Debra Reisner, coordinator for the local AI group's campaign, the key to abolishing torture is increasing public awareness of its existence, thus increasing written protest.

"If we start putting pressure on these governments and let them know we're watching them and know what they're doing, this will cause them to look at themselves, and maybe change their policies," Reisner said.

Such pressure can only be generated by letters of protest against government acts of torture, she said.

In an effort to raise public awareness of torture, the local AI group will show a film in Room 211 of the Student Union Monday at 8 p.m. The film, "Your Neighbor's Son," is recreated from events in Greece during the years 1967-74 and demonstrates the process that was used to teach individuals to become torturers.

Christmas tree lighting tonight in Pit

By RACHEL STIFFLER
Staff Writer

The annual Alpha Phi Omega Christmas tree lighting will be held at 7 p.m. tonight in the Pit.

Holly Cobb, APO service vice president, said the UNC grounds crew is helping APO members put up the tree. The event will last one to 1 1/2 hours and will feature a Christmas music program performed by the Carolina Choir beginning at 7:30. ARA will serve hot chocolate.

Cobb, a junior from Raleigh, stressed the event was open to everyone. "It will be a time for everyone to get together, sing Christmas carols, and decorate the tree," she said.

Cobb said this annual Christmas tradition was started by APO about 15 to 20 years ago, when the tree lighting was an all-campus event with all fraternities, sororities and other campus organizations participating. "This year we're trying to revive that (all-campus participation). We called and sent letters to all the campus organizations asking them to bring Christmas tree ornaments that represent their organization in some way," Cobb said. She said she did not know how many organizations would participate but added she was optimistic there would be a large turn-out.

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