

C-TOPS show freshmen around, give placement tests

By CATHERINE COWAN
Staff Writer

If you've been on campus during the weekend and seen groups of people wandering around listening to someone tell them about the Bell Tower or Wilson Library, chances are you've run into a group of entering freshmen participating in C-TOPS, or Carolina Testing and Orientation Programs. During the two-day program freshmen will take their foreign language and math exams, go on campus tours and hear about services and organizations at UNC.

Shirley Hunter, director of orientation at UNC, said the main purpose of C-TOPS was to provide some orientation to students before they arrived in the fall and to administer

their foreign language and math placement tests. There will be eight sessions of the C-TOPS this summer.

One of the main features of the program is a skit the Orientation Commission puts on called "Changes and Transitions" in which they act out some of the changes the entering freshmen may go through during their first couple of weeks at Carolina. This is followed by small group discussions in which students can talk about the ideas in the skit and raise any questions they might have, Hunter said.

The program starts on Friday at 9:30 a.m. when students and their parents arrive at Morrison Dorm, where they are housed for the night. Opening session begins at 11:30 a.m.

in Memorial Hall, followed by lunch and campus tours. Afterward, the Orientation commission puts on their skit, and later the students take their foreign language placement test. After dinner the students receive presentations on student organizations and university housing.

On Saturday morning, students get a presentation on campus services and general college and take the math placement test. Also on Saturday are more small group discussions, question-and-answer sessions and lunch.

Hunter said C-TOPS was a good experience for most students. "Last year, evaluations averaged 4.2 out of a possible 5. The consensus among the freshmen was that they felt

relieved about coming in the fall. Their anxiety has been lessened or even completely gone."

Abraham Segres, an orientation counselor for C-TOPS, said organization for the orientation program began last spring. This work consisted of mailing out information about C-TOPS to all prospective freshmen and coordinating the program at UNC. It included calling University departments to get them to make presentations, setting up housing at Morrison and contracting Lenoir Hall to be open for meals, Segres said.

Christine Reid, an entering freshman from Clemmons, said she thought C-TOPS was helpful. "I enjoyed talking to the students. Everyone was very helpful. My favorite thing was the skits they did. It taught me the most," she said.

John Beckley, an entering freshman from Dayton, Ohio, also thought the program was helpful. "I got a good idea of what would happen when I got down there. We got a pamphlet in which there was one section called 'I wish I would have known.' It's good to find out before I go."

Snakes crawl in car for 2 days

From Associated Press reports

PAWNEE, Okla. — A woman spent more than two days trapped in her overturned car in a creekbed as snakes slithered into the vehicle before her brother retraced her route and found her in what state police call a "one-in-a-thousand chance."

Carolyn Sue Bowman, 45, was driving along a straight stretch of Oklahoma 18 Friday when the steering wheel malfunctioned and the car skidded into a ravine about four miles south of this north-central Oklahoma community, said Highway Patrol Trooper Roger Price.

The car ended up with its top mashed down and doors jammed shut in a marshy creekbed, where snakes infested the engine compartment.

"She said she kept trying to figure out a way to get out, and kept shoving things in the holes so the snakes couldn't get into the car," said Bowman's husband, Terry Bowman. She said she could hear one of the snakes near the fan.

Sunday evening, her brother Ripley Police Chief Bill Gladden, traced her route, finding what he described as "some skid marks off the highway into the grass." Gladden investigated, and on the other side of a small hill found the car lying upside down in the ravine.

The brown car blended with the mud of the creekbed and was partially covered by a tree, said Gladden.

"You could have taken a helicopter over the place and not seen the car. The good Lord wanted her to be

found," said Price, who investigated the accident. He called the rescue a "one-in-a-thousand chance."

Bowman was being treated Monday at the Pawnee Municipal Hospital for bruises, exposure and dehydration, said her husband.



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