

Supplement manual to aid residence hall leaders, officials say

By **FRANCINE ALLEN**
Staff Writer

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is planning to write and distribute a new booklet that will give residence hall government leaders information on how to better serve their areas, RHA officials said.

RHA had planned to send the booklet to all area governments, RHA Executive Assistant Paula Zellmer said. But all area leaders have not been able to contribute to the booklet in its planning stages, so it will only be distributed to Scott Residence College leaders for now.

The booklet will supplement a

manual regularly published by the RHA that deals with residence hall administration, Brian Sipe, governor of Scott Residence College, said. The regular manual usually serves upper management.

"The new booklet will give a bigger picture of RHA," he said. "It will get information into the residence halls to the people who need it the most."

The booklet will also contain information about social and cultural programming and community service projects for residence hall government leaders. The booklet also offers ideas on how to represent students on issues affecting residence hall life,

he said.

The booklet is intended for floor senators, publicity and social representatives and residence hall presidents, Sipe said. As the booklet's focus expands, it will target other residence hall leaders, such as intramural managers.

The need for the booklets arose because hall government leaders often do not know what services they can provide for their residence hall, Sipe said.

Many residence hall government leaders are sophomores and freshmen, and their lack of experience contributes to the need for the

booklet, he said.

The younger leaders learn their duties in RHA government, Zellmer said, but the booklet will make leadership easier.

"It takes two years to see how things work on campus," she said. "The booklet will let them know what they got into."

RHA officials have not yet appointed a committee to write the booklet, which will be paid for by RHA and the individual residence areas, Sipe said.

Sipe said he expects the booklet to come out in two or three weeks.

The booklet's creation was not a result of RHA officials' dissatisfaction with the job area government leaders are doing, Sipe said.

"RHA is the most effective representative group on campus," he said. "But we can be better, and we're planning for the future."

Ice cream heir rallies for animals

By **JESSICA YATES**
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of someone giving up an inheritance of a multi-million dollar business for the sake of a four-legged creature that stands around swishing its tail and chewing grass all day?

Well, you have now.

John Robbins, who dispossessed himself of the Baskin-Robbins ice cream fortune, will be speaking at Hamilton Hall tonight on how our personal eating habits affect life all over the planet. One particular emphasis will be our food choices, especially with regard to meat and dairy products.

Robbins' name is not only associated with ice cream but also with his book, "Diet For a New America." The book, which has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, contains a lot of criticism of the food industry and American eating habits.

"The public has a right to know information about how the food giants work," Robbins explained, "about what's being done to their food and about the consequences to their health."

Robbins' interests in this industry and in animal treatment have been a life-long endeavor. He's the president of the Earth-Save Foundation, an internationally active organization dedicated to protecting the environment. "All environmental issues are profoundly affected by food," Robbins said. "The problems with acid rain, the greenhouse effect — they're all tied in."

The reason Robbins gave up the Baskin-Robbins fortune is also the biggest reason he does not eat meat or any kind of dairy products: he feels the treatment of animals in the milking and slaughter processes is inhumane. He considers the worst animal farm problem to be the veal calf situation.

"They are put into crates immediately after birth. They never walk, suckle or see the outside. They are locked in the dark, and many go blind. They can't even turn around to lick themselves, and they can't sleep in a natural position," Robbins said. "They are living sardines. It is the most ugly, obscene, appalling situation."

Robbins said he believes animals "have a right to our respect as a part of creation." His book reminds people that animals can suffer and feel pain. "It's a crime against nature and ourselves to lose this respect for them," he declared.

Robbins said he feels that dissolving the meat industry would be a tremendous boon to the economy. "According to the FDA, the meat industry provides fewer jobs for the resources than any other industry," he explained. He also cites high turnover, high injury rates, low pay and low morale as some of the problems the industry experiences.

Robbins stressed that he does not have to use vitamin and mineral supplements in place of meat and dairy products. "There are plenty of them in a plant-based diet. There is no nutritional component in meat that is not found amply elsewhere," he said. "It is far healthier this way."


Though he is on what most people consider to be a strict vegetarian diet, Robbins is quick to tell people that such a diet is not for everyone. "I want people to lead healthier lives, but they don't need to be vegetarians to do that," he said. "I don't expect people to take it as far as I do. People should change their eating habits on a pace they're ready for."

When asked what kind of impact Robbins believes his book and lectures have, he replied, "I get letters every week from readers saying they've made a change in their lives." In his view, this is just more of a reason to continue lecturing about how people can best harmonize with nature through their food choices.

The UNC-CH Chapter of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Triangle Vegetarian Society are sponsoring Robbins' lecture. It begins at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Hamilton Hall.

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