

City and Campus

Student group focuses on homeless

By **STEPHEN BRYAN**
Staff Writer

Surrounded by friends and the conveniences of dorm and apartment life, many students may find it easy to forget about the homeless.

The Student Homeless Outreach Coalition (SHOC), a committee of the Campus Y, is trying to change that fact.

SHOC Monday will sponsor a "Sleepout For Homelessness," an event to increase students' awareness of the local and national homelessness problem. Participants will gather at 7 p.m. at the Campus Y and hold a rally, either in the Pit or on the quad in front of South Building.

That evening the students will simulate the plight of the homeless by spending the night outside on campus, said Trey Loughran, co-chairman of SHOC. To further illustrate the hardships endured by the homeless, Loughran said the group will sleep on cardboard boxes.

"What we're trying to do is simulate homelessness and raise awareness about the problem," he said. "Many people on this campus don't even consider homelessness because it isn't staring

them straight in the face."

Angela Davis, a freshman from Taylorsville, said she agreed. "A lot of college students don't think about it (homelessness), especially here at Carolina, because many of the students have money and haven't totally done without it."

But some students are aware of the problem. "Driving around, you notice it, and it is sad that not much is being done," said Heather Isles, a junior music major.

Ashley McGahey, a sophomore who has volunteered at a Chapel Hill community kitchen, added, "After they (the people who eat at the kitchen) leave, I wonder where they go."

The reasons for the homeless problem are varied, said Chris Moran, consultant to the community services of Inter-Faith Council, a local non-profit organization sponsored by local congregations. Causes of homelessness include unemployment, family problems and evictions, he said.

A popular misconception is that the homeless have a history of mental illness or are alcoholics, Moran said. Only

18 percent of those who have stayed at the Inter-Faith Council's shelter in the first half of 1989 have had a history of mental illness, while only 15 percent have had alcohol-related problems, he said.

"Sleepout for Homelessness" is SHOC's prelude to a Oct. 7 national march to Washington, D.C., in which groups from across the nation will meet and descend on the steps of the Capitol. As many as 500,000 people are expected to attend the lobbying rally, Loughran said.

The rally is an effort to encourage Congress to pass housing legislation to prevent homelessness. According to Michael Sprong, Southern Regional Field Organizer for HOUSING NOW!, the group organizing the rally, the demands of the group are simple:

- to end homelessness
- to fund the creation of affordable housing, and
- to restore funds for the federal housing program.

Groups from 220 cities in 47 states will meet in Washington, Sprong said. Loughran said he plans to take several busloads of students to the rally.

The public needs to become aware of the necessity for shelters, especially

during the winter, Loughran said.

He said he tried to approach UNC administration about opening a building on campus, but because of the liability involved, the request was denied. Loughran is now turning his attempts to local churches.

In 1988, 281 people stayed at the Chapel Hill shelters. During the first six months of this year, 216 people have sought relief there.

Determining the number of homeless people in the community is difficult, Moran said, because the demand for shelter varies with the time of the year. Not everyone who is homeless stays in the shelters, he said. Some sleep in abandoned cars, behind dumpsters or on the campus.

Loughran said his committee is encouraging UNC community participation in the sleepout and at the national march.

"Changes are going to need to be made as to how we view homelessness and affordable housing in this country," he said. "Both of these acts are an opportunity to get involved in these changes at a grass roots level and to make an impact on the thinking of others."

Campus Police Roundup

• The driver's side of a car parked in the Bell Tower parking lot was reported damaged Thursday at 11:08 a.m. The valve stems were stolen from the tires.

• A car parked behind Burnett-Womack was reported damaged on the passenger side at 11:36 a.m. Thursday, with damage estimated at \$450.

• An unlocked room in Craige Residence Hall was entered and a wallet containing \$27 was reported stolen Thursday around 3 p.m.

• A woman's wallet was reported stolen from a backpack left on a couch in the Student Union office Thursday at 9:50 p.m. The wallet contained about \$22.

• While a man was delivering for a food service company at Spencer Residence Hall around 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, a man unlawfully entered the locked truck, broke into a safe in the truck and stole cash and coins in the amount of \$3,000.

• A woman reported around 7 p.m. Wednesday that a man in Davis Li-

brary had exposed himself to her.

• A construction worker at the Education Foundation was accidentally pinned to a wall with an electric transformer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

• Damage to a window of a car parked near Ehringhaus Residence Hall was discovered around 9 a.m. Tuesday. An apparent attempt to enter the car had been made.

• A marble-top ashtray was reported stolen from the Kenan Center around noon Tuesday. The ashtray is valued at \$50.

• The rear glass and windshield of a car parked near Ehringhaus was reported damaged around noon Tuesday.

• A suspicious person was reported in the Undergraduate and Davis libraries at 2:34 p.m. Tuesday. A middle-aged man, white, with gray curly hair, was reported to have followed women around. The man did not speak to anyone, and police could not locate him.

— compiled by Jenny Cloninger

University Baptist pastor retires after 11 years at church

By **JULIE CAMPBELL**
Staff Writer

After 11 years of service to the University Baptist Church, Senior Minister Thomas Downing retired Sunday.

After the Sunday morning worship service, the congregation went outside to the garden beside the church, Nancy Lee, assistant minister, said. Church members made speeches expressing gratitude to Downing for his help over the past 11 years, and a check was presented to the minister and his wife, Sue. A brunch was held in the church fellowship hall, said Lee.

University students and alumni church members dedicated a wall holding a plaque engraved with the church's name to Downing.

Amanda Squires, a 23-year-old lifetime member of University Baptist Church, represented the students and alumni and announced the dedication of the wall.

When Downing announced his retirement last spring, UNC student and alumni church members began to collect money for the wall.

On the front of the wall, facing Franklin Street, there is a plaque with "The University Baptist Church" engraved on it.

On the back of the wall, facing the church garden, a plaque reads: "Dedicated to Thomas Downing, senior minister, 1978-1989. Where at this crucial crossroad his sublime preach-



Thomas Downing

ing of Christ profoundly reached thousands."

"There had never been a sign or a wall with the name of the church on it," Squires said. "Rev. Downing was surprised by the presentation. He didn't know anything about it."

Downing will stay in Chapel Hill and continue attending the University Baptist Church, he said.

Downing said he was "flabbergasted, moved and honored" when the church made the dedication.

Food, crafts and more available at Festifall

By **JEFF MOYER**
Staff Writer

Homecoming isn't the only big event in Chapel Hill this weekend. The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor the 18th annual Festifall Street Fair from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

The fair will be on Franklin Street between Spanky's and the first driveway of the planetarium.

One hundred sixty booths ranging from vendors of crafts and other artistic creations to people offering public information on organizations such as the League of Women Voters and UNC's Campus Y will constitute the fair, said Bonnie Dreher, organizer for the fair.

"It's really great to see all the talent that comes from Orange County," Dreher said. "All but 10 of the booths have been reserved by county residents."

One of the requirements for fair participants is that all items for sale must be handmade, Dreher said. Pottery, stained glass, woodworks, quilts and jewelry are some of the items that will be sold at the fair.

Food at the fair is prepared by local groups and area residents, she said. A wide variety of dishes from barbeque to

egg rolls will be offered and a chili cook-off sponsored by WCHL will be the highlight.

Debi Devigili, entertainment organizer for the fair, said there will also be several performances at the festival.

From two stages, one located on the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets and the other at the intersection of Franklin and Henderson, local musicians and area dance groups will perform for the crowd, she said.

Local bands such as Mickey Mills and The Black Jacks and classical performers such as the Chapel Hill Brass Ensemble and Chapel Hill Ballet Company will perform.

The entertainers are participating for the Chapel Hill community and not for money, Devigili said. "All the entertainers are volunteering their time."

There has been a tremendous interest this year, she said. The booths were reserved within the first two hours of registration.

"Festifall has been a success in years past, usually drawing between 15,000 and 18,000 people," Dreher said. "Festifall is a community event. It's a great time to see people come out and get together."

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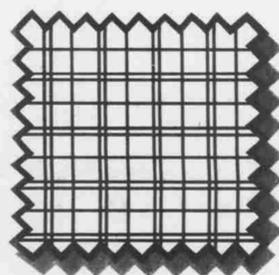


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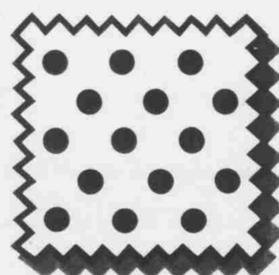
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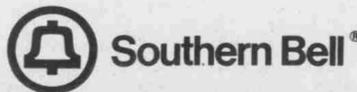
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STUDY ABROAD 101!
GENERAL INFORMATION
SESSION**
Wed. Sept. 27 at 3:30
Lower Level Caldwell Hall

Find out about what programs are available, how to transfer credit and talk to students who have recently returned!