

State Briefs

Camp Lejeune dump joins top cleanup sites

CAMP LEJEUNE — Officials hope extensive cleanup will begin soon at Camp Lejeune now that the Marine base has made the list of the nation's worst toxic-waste sites.

"The hazardous-waste sites covered in this agreement in some cases date back to the base's founding in 1941," Jacqueline Schafer, the Navy's assistant secretary for installations and environment, told The (Raleigh) News and Observer.

The Pentagon report said Lejeune's contaminants include waste oils, fuels, solvents, battery acid, lithium batteries, paints, thinners, pesticides, herbicides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are known to cause cancer.

The 88,432-acre Marine base is the largest of 22 N.C. sites on the list. It is the only military installation among the 22 state sites, which include several private and abandoned storage facilities or dumps.

The report said studies of Camp Lejeune have identified "77 past spill and disposal sites as potentially contaminated with migrating contaminants" — materials that might permeate the soil.

The Defense Department has earmarked \$3 million for the cleanup.

General Assembly may review smoking-age bill

WILMINGTON — N.C. legislators say a suggestion to raise the state's legal age for buying cigarettes from 17 to 18 at least deserves a fair hearing.

The New Hanover County Board of Health voted unanimously Wednesday to ask the General Assembly to raise the legal age for buying cigarettes to 18.

"I have a feeling it will be a symbolic gesture," said Rep. Karen Gottovi, D-New Hanover. But she said a bill could get some attention.

"I think there will be support from some members to increase the legal age to 18," Gottovi said. "That seems to be the age at which maturity is assumed."

New Hanover County Board of Health member Michael Goins proposed the idea.

"The idea is to make people aware," Goins said. "Smoking for children is unhealthy, yet no one enforces it."

Tobacco is the state's top agricultural product, and the industry is very influential.

"It is, by its very nature, controversial," Rep. Harry Payne, D-New Hanover, said. "And where's the enforcement mechanism? Are we talking fine? Are we talking suspension of driving privileges? Are we talking incarceration?"

Goins said the state's general statutes make it a misdemeanor to sell or provide cigarettes to a minor. A conviction could result in a \$500 fine, six months in jail or both, although that law is rarely enforced.

Charlotte schools want police for security

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte-Mecklenburg 76,000-student school system may be ready for its own force of unarmed and plainclothes police officers, new Superintendent John Murphy said Wednesday.

The idea follows the second killing on a campus this school year.

School officials are already asking the city of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to pay for a police officer (called school resource officer) to patrol each of the system's 32 secondary schools during school hours. Twelve additional officers — costing about \$400,000 a year — are needed to have one at each middle, junior and senior high school.

Murphy, who officially becomes superintendent July 1, said he and other school officials plan to meet with local law enforcement officials in early May to discuss school security.

— The Associated Press

CAMPUS AND CITY

Cystic Fibrosis Center gets \$1.2 million

By Adam Ford
Staff Writer

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation recently awarded its premier research grant of \$1.2 million to the UNC Cystic Fibrosis Center.

The grant, called the American Airlines Cystic Fibrosis Research Award, will give the center \$400,000 each year for the next three years.

Dr. Richard Boucher, director of the center, said he was delighted with the grant. "It's nice to know you can access large corporations for funds to do fundamentally good things."

A group of 50 people, including 18 faculty members, conducts scientific and clinical research on cystic fibrosis at the center. The center needs resources for its facility, faculty funding and operating costs, Boucher said. The grant

money will be used to pay for operating costs in research and development.

Robert Dressing, president and chief executive officer of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, said the foundation chose the UNC center to receive the grant because of the center's leading role in cystic fibrosis research. "UNC is one of the premier research and development centers in the country," he said.

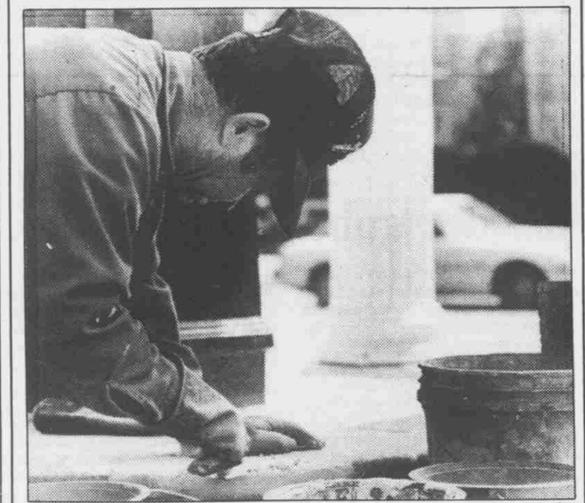
The foundation now funds 12 cystic

fibrosis centers in the United States and one in Canada, Dressing said.

The grant was named in honor of American Airlines because of the \$5 million the company raised for Cystic Fibrosis, Dressing said. Marty Heires, an American Airlines corporate communicator, said the airline raised the grant money through its annual celebritieski and the donation of airline tickets. Cystic fibrosis kills more whites than

any other genetic disease. It causes the lungs to clog up with a thick mucus and severely affects digestion. A majority of the more than 30,000 people afflicted with cystic fibrosis in the United States are children and young adults.

Boucher said construction began last week on a new facility for the center. The Thurston-Bowles Buildings, a \$30-million medical research complex, is scheduled to be complete by July 1993.



DTH/Keith Nelson

Get Well soon

Page Jones, a maintenance worker, works Thursday to repair damage to the Old Well, which was caused by vandalism March 24.

Festival displays color, dress of Punjabi culture

By Beth Tatum
Staff Writer

A blue velvet curtain hangs over the stage. The audience does not settle down to wait — people move from row to row hugging long lost friends and chattering away. Children dart around the legs of the adults and wander around the auditorium.

Women with dark hair, skin and eyes wear the traditional saris of the Indian culture — bright turquoise, red, yellow, blue, green interwoven with gold or silver. Men appear in suits and turbans. Ten minutes late, the show begins.

This was Punjabi Nite, held at Duke University on Saturday night. The event celebrated the Punjabi culture with folk music, dance and poetry.

"Punjabi is a culture; it's people who speak the Punjabi language," said Madhu Dev, an organizer of the event. The Punjabi people originate from Panjab, an area located 200 miles north of New Delhi, the capital of India.

The night was a first of a kind. "It was the first time for this Tar Heel state," Dev said. "The local Punjabi got together and decided they wanted to have all Punjabis get together. There were more than we knew." People came from as far as Charlotte, Asheville, Smithfield and all over the state to be there.

The evening opened with the appearance of Chester Jenkins, the mayor of Durham. He welcomed the out-of-staters while the audience continued to talk and become reacquainted.

"I had previous engagements, but I was convinced to come because I was told you would have on all these beautiful colors," he said.

Then Iqbal Singh, a professor at N.C. State University, gave an introduction on the Punjabi culture.

"Punjab is the fountainhead of all cultures in India," he said. The Punjabi have a reason to be proud of their culture. He related a story of how, when Alexander the Great captured a Punjabi king, Alexander asked him how he should treat him. The king answered:

"In character. Treat me as you would treat any other king."

While Singh talked, people continued to wander in and chatter. Finally, the explanations were set aside, the curtain rose, and the dancing began.

Young boys and teenagers stepped out to a drum beat and formed a circle. The audience clapped with the rhythm as two or three boys danced in the spotlight. Each group portrayed something different — one was a cobra, enchanted by the piper; another was a carefully choreographed fight.

The boys danced off the stage, the curtain closed and folk music took its place. Four men and three women sat with their legs crossed on the left-hand side of the stage.

Drums, bells and an instrument sounding like a small organ created the rhythm while the women sang.

The musicians moved off the stage, and the curtain opened again to reveal a barefoot 7-year-old girl wearing yellow pants, a fuchsia shirt and a multi-colored scarf around her neck. The girl, Sukhbir Walha, danced and spun, lifting the scarf above her head.

Next, several young girls came out to dance and performed in a fashion similar to the boys — falling into a circle, and performing in the spotlight in groups of two.

More singing, more dancing and then poetry followed. Three men presented three different types of poetry, all in the Punjabi language.

The evening proceeded with more dance and more music by local people until the finale — the Panjab Rang Munch, professional dancers from Washington, D.C. The group performed a bhangra, a dance similar to that of the young boys where all gather in a circle and two or three take their turn in the spotlight.

Around midnight, the last songs faded away, the dancers took their bows and the curtain closed. Punjabi Nite was over, but it lived up to its expectations. "Everybody enjoyed themselves — I think it was a great success," Dev said.

Towns to be repaid for fire protection of state buildings

By Chris Goodson
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill and other area towns will receive reimbursements for fire protection of state-owned buildings for the third and fourth quarters of this fiscal year, state officials said.

Chapel Hill may know in May whether it will receive additional reimbursements from other state-shared revenues.

In previous years, the state has allocated about \$296,000 annually to the town for fire protection services. But earlier this year, state officials told Chapel Hill's government officials that the town would not receive the estimated \$150,000 promised for the last two quarters of the fiscal year, said Chapel Hill Town Manager Cal Horton.

After area fire departments, including Chapel Hill's, informed the state that the cuts would cause severe problems, the state reversed its decision. Town officials were notified that the funds would be provided, said Chapel Hill Finance Director James Baker.

"We sent some letters informing (the

state) that it certainly would put a hardship on us," Baker said.

The town received notification in a March 21 memorandum from Marvin Dorman Jr., then interim state budget officer, that the fire protection funds would still be available for the town, Horton said.

Dorman's memorandum stated that several fire departments said the withdrawal of state funds would cause severe hardships, especially for departments that need special equipment to fight fires in state buildings.

All fire departments that protect state-owned buildings would receive money for the purpose of fire protection, Dorman's memorandum states.

But Chapel Hill may still lose almost \$150,000 in other state reimbursements because of the removal of an inventory tax from the tax base several years ago, Baker said.

If the state had not decided to give Chapel Hill the fire protection funds, the town would have incurred a loss of about \$300,000, Baker said.

Town officials had prepared a plan for dealing with a \$300,000 loss, Horton

said. "Ultimately through a review process and working with each department, we had identified a sufficient level of cuts and deferrals so that we could handle the state's withholding of funds," he said.

The original \$300,000 cut would have denied the town money it was counting on for the end of the fiscal year, Baker said. But the remaining \$150,000 loss will still have negative effects, he said.

"Fortunately, this reduces it to about \$150,000, but that still is a severe hardship because it's right at the end of the fiscal year when we don't have as much opportunity to reduce our expenditures," he said.

State officials will inform the town in May whether reimbursements from the inventory tax will be available, Baker said.

Although the state has promised the \$150,000 fire protection money for the rest of this fiscal year, the availability of that money in the future is uncertain, Horton said.

"There's no assurance," he said.

Student Congress picks officers as 73rd session gets under way

By Jennifer Mueller
Staff Writer

The 73rd Student Congress is getting off to a running start, to use the words of Tim Moore, newly elected speaker of congress.

The first session of the 73rd congress was held Wednesday night to appoint officers and prepare for the upcoming term.

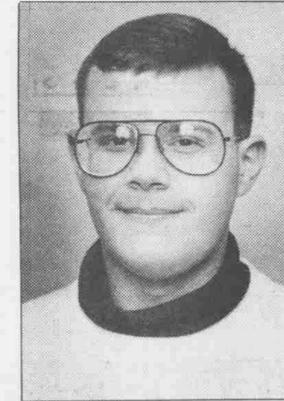
Members, who were elected in February, were mostly newcomers. Only eight of the 31 members have previous Student Congress experience.

Moore, a new member for Dist. 21, was elected speaker by a vote of 16-14. He defeated Kristina Sung, Dist. 11.

"What the University needs is clear-cut leadership in Congress," said Moore, a junior transfer student.

Congress members should focus their attention on issues such as recycling, housing, health insurance and the budget, Moore said.

Sung said her platform included her belief that "the real power of the speaker lies in congress." If she were elected, she said, she would attempt to redefine or redistribute the focus of



Tim Moore

the present Student Affairs Committee and "act as the manager, not dictator, of parliamentary procedure."

Former Speaker Pro Tempore Donnie Esposito presided as speaker for the election of the Ethics Committee chairman and speaker of congress.

Moore took control of Wednesday night's meeting following his election.

Mark Shelburne, Dist. 19, was elected speaker pro tempore. He ran unopposed. Shelburne said he was surprised and flattered by the nomination and promised to be available to the other members of congress.

Mike Kolb, Dist. 1, was appointed Ethics Committee chairman. He also ran unopposed. Senior congress members Andrew Cohen, Dist. 6, Jürgen Buchenau, Dist. 2 and Sung were selected as the committee's three members.

Daryl Grissom, Dist. 18, was re-elected as Finance Committee chairman. He defeated new member Jennifer Lloyd, Dist. 12, 20-7-0.

The Rules and Judiciary Committee chairman also was re-elected. Ron Swift, Dist. 7, ran unopposed and will continue his role as chairman.

Carl Clark, Dist. 18, was elected Student Affairs Committee chairman. He also ran unopposed.

Moore said the positions of clerk of congress, assistant clerk, parliamentarian and organizational treasurer would be appointed before the next congress meeting on April 10.

Seafood cookout to aid coastal cause

Staff report

Tom Robinson's Carolina Seafood, located at 207 Roberson St. in Carrboro, will host a benefit seafood cookout Saturday to raise money for environmental groups trying to preserve the coast.

The cookout, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be held on the lawn in front of the store across from the Farmer's Market.

Various restaurants, including La Residence, Colonel Cutney's, Cafe Giorgios, the Sunshine Cafe and Chick It Out, will help serve fresh seafood and chicken.

The seafood menu will include crabs, shrimp and fish in addition to hush puppies and cole slaw. The food will be grilled, fried, steamed and broiled, Robinson said.

The money raised will benefit the Southern Environmental Law Center, a legal advocate for environmental organizations, and the North Carolina Coastal Federation, a grass-roots group that represents the state's environmental interests.

Meals will cost \$5 or more, depending on what people include on their plates, Robinson said.

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All interviews start at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm

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