

Volunteers take sting away from cancer

By Vicki Cheng
Staff Writer

Keith Ellerbe likes to rap. He also likes to draw, and he shares his work with Kevin Logel, who visits once a week when Ellerbe comes to UNC Hospitals for leukemia treatment.

"I let him listen to my rap demo and stuff," explained the 21-year-old Rockingham native, "and he liked it."

Ellerbe and Logel are participants in the Childhood Cancer Friends program, in which student volunteers pair up with young cancer patients who come to UNC Hospitals for regular treatment.

The brainchild of Dr. Herbert Cooper, a physician in the oncology program, Childhood Cancer Friends began in fall 1990. Cooper wanted to involve students interested in the medical profession with out-of-town cancer patients who stayed at the hospital for several days, said Rose Dunaway, a registered nurse and one of three program coordinators.

"When (the patients) come to the clinic or to the hospital, they would have someone to visit with them... just somebody that could be a pal to them while they're here," Dunaway said.

Each student volunteer is assigned to one of 25 patients and visits this "buddy" on a weekly or biweekly basis, depending on the patient's treatment schedule. The patients' age range is 3 to 21.

Dunaway targets those patients who must come to the hospital regularly, but the only requirement for a patient's participation is a desire to have a buddy, she said.

The volunteer and patient pairs are responsible for deciding what to do during each visit. "They really decide how they spend their time," Dunaway said, "whether they play games or just talk or listen to music, depending on the age of the child."

Ian Fay, a junior from Winston-Salem, often goes to the hospital's recreation center with his buddy. "Every



Garry Strickland, 10, is a participant in Childhood Cancer Friends

time I go he beats me in pool," Fay admitted.

Nikkie Agosto, an 11-year-old leukemia patient from Sanford, recently made bracelets with her buddy, Whitney Wright. "We've got to get all these treatments, but having a buddy's fun," Agosto said.

Volunteers work throughout the semester, but many maintain relationships with their buddies during the summer and afterward. Stephanie Briggs often writes letters to her buddy, a senior in high school who comes in for treatment once a month.

Fay said he intended to keep in touch with his buddy after the school year ended. "Yeah, we're buddies," he said. "That's the way the program should be."

The volunteers' primary objective is to get their buddies' minds off tests and treatments they must undergo at the hospital, but dealing with cancer can be emotionally draining for both the patient and the volunteer.

"Your job is to cheer them up and not to commiserate," said Charlotte Anderson, a junior from Charleston, S.C. "It's hard to be upbeat and not to let it get you down."

Beril Ulku, a junior from Columbia, S.C., said watching the children go through many procedures at the hospital and seeing how upset the patients get before each treatment was a challenge she faced each week.

Sophomore Theodore Dubose sympathizes with his buddy, who must spend long hours in the hospital. "He's so young," Dubose said. "I think the worst part is that he has to be away from his parents so much."

Fay said he tried not to think about what might happen to his terminally ill buddy in the future. "We don't dwell on it," he said, "We have to shoot for the positives."

Most volunteers agreed, though, that the rewards of participating in the program were well worth the challenges. Briggs, a sophomore from Winston-

Salem, said she achieved a different perspective on life each time she visited her buddy. "(My patient) is so upbeat on life," she said. "It's wonderful to go in there. You really begin to appreciate that there's more to life than school."

Fay said he drew a lot of strength from his buddy. "Not many of us can say that we are terminally ill," he said. "I see the patients dealing with it. To see that resolve is really amazing. I want to be there, and I want to understand, but it's so hard to. All of us sheltered people find out what anguish can be."

The patients have the ability to go beyond that anguish, Fay explained. "(My patient) is not scared of anything," he said. "And that's the most amazing thing."

For Dunaway, seeing the volunteers benefit is one of the most positive aspects of the program. "It's really rewarding to watch the volunteers relate to these patients who are chronically ill," she said.

"They're certainly from different walks of life, and yet they match very well."

The patients and their parents say the program is a big help. Terrie Agosto, Nikkie's mother, said the visits took her daughter's mind off her treatment.

Nellie Moody, mother of 13-year-old Kim Moody, appreciated the free time volunteers gave parents. "(The program) helps the moms get a chance to get out and do a little more," Moody said.

The patients continue to look forward to interesting experiences with their student volunteers.

Ellerbe plans to go to a UNC basketball game with Logel. He said he enjoyed the UNC-Clemson football game with his buddy last semester, although he couldn't remember who won. "But I had fun anyway."

Anyone interested in volunteering for Childhood Cancer Friends should contact UNC Hospitals' volunteer office at 966-4793.

Students to begin search for fun, sun and hot buns

By John Broadfoot
Staff Writer

A great migration begins today, but it's not just the birds who are heading south.

The traditional Spring Break search for sun and good times remains immensely popular with UNC students.

Jessica Frank, a sophomore from Greensboro, said she was excited about driving to Key West with four friends.

"I'm going to relax, and we're going to try and do some snorkeling," Frank said. "We're going to go out to the bars, get a tan and have fun."

The decadence of Mardi Gras, which correlates with Spring Break this year, might draw some students to New Orleans.

"We're staying through fat Tuesday," said Srikanth Iyer, a junior from Raleigh. "We're going to the quarter a couple of nights. It should be fun."

But Florida and Mardi Gras don't appeal to everyone — some prefer a more subdued vacation.

Chancellor Paul Hardin will divide his time between the office and the golf course next week. Hardin maintains a 5 handicap.

Professor Michael Follo's Geology 46 class will travel west to continue academic studies. Follo said he, three grad students and 32 undergraduates would camp in national parks in Ari-

zona and southern Utah. "We go out there for eight days and look at rocks and have a good time," Follo said.

Contrary to popular belief, the town and the University campus do not go into hibernation during the break.

Georgia Tech will challenge the Tar Heels Wednesday in the final home men's basketball game.

Athletic facilities will maintain regular hours, except for the Woolen Gym pool, which will be closed during the weekends and open from noon to 4 p.m. weekdays.

If athletic endeavors aren't your style and you wish to get a jump on classes, the library will stay open for reduced hours during Spring Break.

Students stuck on campus will find it difficult to get their hands on dining hall cuisine because Lenoir and Chase halls both close at 2 p.m. Friday and won't reopen until March 9.

Wayne Kuncil, director of UNC housing, said residence halls would close at 6 p.m. Friday and reopen noon March 8. Craigie Residence Hall will remain open during the break, but students will not be allowed to stay in the other dormitories.

Mike Stout, co-owner of Bub O'Malley's Pub, said business usually declined after the first weekend. "We'll see a little bit of a drop-off, but when the students leave the people from town come out more."

Campus Calendar

FRIDAY
Noon: Orientation applications are due in 311 Carr.

5 p.m. Nominations are due for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Student Activities and Leadership in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (104 Steele).

ITEMS OF INTEREST
Carolina Fever directors interview sign-up sheet will be posted outside the CAA office until

March 10. Interested students should pick up applications.

UNC Math Contest is available in 365 Phillips. Class of '88 Summer Study Abroad Fellowship applications are available in the International Center. The deadline is March 9. For more information stop by the International Center or call 962-5661.

Wynon Marsalis: 8 p.m. March 16 in Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$16 for the public at the Union Box Office.

'Inspiring museum educator' suggests applying own experience to works of art

By Jenni Spitz
Staff Writer

Some art critics have claimed that modern art is really "an overindulgence of self-expression" only understandable to those who know new art trends.

But this is not necessarily true, for modern art, in its expressive and often abstract forms, can be appreciated and perused by people who bring their experiences to the work, said Philip Yenawine, education director of New York City's Museum of Modern Art, Tuesday night in Hanes Art Center au-

ditorium. Introduced as "an inspiring museum educator who cares a lot about people and about arts" by Ray Williams, the curator of education for the Ackland Art Museum, Yenawine labeled art as both society's salvation and a source of great confusion during his speech, "Social Issues in Contemporary Art."

Yenawine, the author of "Have a Look at Modern Art" and several children's art books, explained that misunderstandings about modern art stemmed from common misconceptions about traditional art truisms and sup-

posed effects on society.

Yenawine explained how artists such as Barbara Krueger used simple statements to emphasize veracity in society. One of Yenawine's more graphic displays of modern art, one work simply stated in bold, black letters: "Spit on someone with a mouthful of milk, and find out something about their personality fast."

Yenawine confirmed art's necessity within society. "Without art, we're in a bit of a mess," he said.

He enjoys talking about social issues, because many of today's artists

are engaged in the world around them.

"Art, in its function, allows us to think and feel about the world around us," Yenawine said. He said if art were made available to more people, many of the world's problems could be solved.

"If you can decode some of today's nonsensical arts, you can also make sense of the 6 o'clock news," he said.

Art is frequently about itself, Yenawine explained. He illustrated this through an example of Jasper Johns' famous painting, "Weeping Women." The painting is a cross-hatch drawing of red, blue and yellow blocks used as a double entendre of paint and materials.

Yenawine pointed out Johns' use of composition to create a pattern. Another of Johns' paintings is a surrealist map of the United States, a subject of visual abstraction of land and geography to "represent the real."

Today's art, according to Yenawine, is "where the real world begins." He showed slides of Richard Serra's work, such as "St. John's Rotary," which reflects the "monumentality" and "brute strength" of our society through the medium of a long, brown wall in the midst of a metropolis. Serra used the wall to display the world's ugliness.

Yenawine claimed that "there is such a thing as aesthetics going on." But these aesthetics include the "taboo," such as sex, religion and racism. He saw great promise in the fact that art was beginning to mean something today to people not educated in these subjects.

One artist featured in Yenawine's lecture was Robert Mapplethorpe, a highly controversial photographer whose work focuses on nudity and human perfection and imperfection.

Yenawine asserted that

Mapplethorpe's work was not pornographic, as many had charged, but, rather, stayed in the erotic material that was so forbidden it had become taboo. Examples of Mapplethorpe's art included a photo of a naked white woman and black man that emphasized skin qualities and depersonalized perfection.

Yenawine said Mapplethorpe's art, as well as that of Andre Serano, the creator of "Piss Christ," a photo of a crucifix submerged in urine, showed the "tension that makes art, that works on us mentally and emotionally."

Yenawine's involvement as part of a steering committee on visual arts in support of AIDS relief stems from his new view of society. "I have realized that for us to embrace society's differences, we are going to have to love in a different way than we ever have," he said.

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