

CAMPUS AND CITY

# Binkley Baptist licenses gay preacher

By Carol Davis  
Staff Writer

Members of Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church voted Sunday to grant a homosexual Duke Divinity School student a license to preach.

John Blevins, a 24-year-old member of Chapel Hill's Binkley Baptist, disclosed his sexual orientation to the congregation months ago when he first sought a license.

According to Associated Press reports, Blevins said Monday his request represented the reconciliation of an inner struggle that lasted for years.

"I grew up as a Baptist, was raised in a Baptist congregation from birth," he said. "I finally came away realizing that I was a Baptist, that I cherished the free-church spirit of the Baptists."

A statement released by the church Monday maintains that "homosexuals have been subjected to a wide range of discrimination, harassment, misunderstanding, intimidation, and violence" and labels the negative reactions in conflict with God's commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

"The Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church... shall disregard the sexual orientation of those under consideration

(for a license or ordination)," according to the church decree. "It shall expect that, while all humans are weak and prone to sinfulness, members and ordained leaders alike will strive for behavior which conforms to the Gospel of Love."

Granting Blevins a license indicates that the church considers him capable and possessed of the spiritual and emotional qualities that would enable him to be a minister, according to a church statement. It also means that the church will offer Blevins spiritual support.

Of the 544 members of Binkley's congregation who were eligible to vote

on the license issue, 145 voted to approve the licensure and 107 voted against it, according to a Southern Baptist Convention statement released Monday.

Binkley is believed to be the first Southern Baptist congregation to openly accept a homosexual into the ministry. The controversial decision may lead Baptist organizations to ostracize the Binkley congregation.

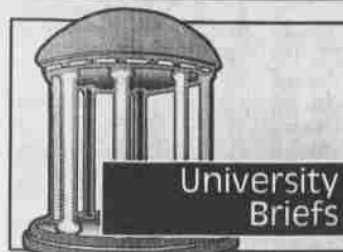
Leaders of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina recommended a proposal in March that would disqualify and refuse funds from churches that openly approve homosexuality.

The proposal will be considered at

the May 19 meeting of the state convention's general board. But the convention's executive committee may respond to Binkley's decision when they meet at Wake Forest today.

According to another Chapel Hill Baptist minister, all Baptist churches are responsible for their actions, but other churches of the same denomination do not have to make similar choices.

"We don't quite understand fully the reason for licensing (Blevins)," said Rev. Ernie Keck, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. "As Baptists, we understand they have the right to do it, but that doesn't make it right."



## New dental facility named for benefactor

The dental school has decided to name its new clinical teaching facility for E.B. Tarrson in recognition of his \$2 million gift and long-term commitment to the dental profession.

Tarrson is the retired chairman and chief executive officer of the John O. Butler Co., the Chicago-based maker of toothbrushes, dental floss and other preventive dentistry products.

When the dental industry started to incorporate nylon instead of natural boar's hair bristles in its toothbrushes, Tarrson developed a method for rounding the end of the synthetic bristle to duplicate that of a natural bristle.

And when competitors began adding a triangle rubber tip to the handle of their brushes, Tarrson invented a better rubber tip that made it easier to massage between the teeth.

Tarrson maintains strong ties with dental professional groups and with the nation's dental schools. He has established fellowships, donated toothbrushes the world over and created a dental research foundation.

Besides his gift to the UNC School of Dentistry, Tarrson has made contributions to the dental schools at Columbia University and the University of Southern California.

## Paul Green's log cabin to be dedicated Sunday

The log cabin used as a writing studio by playwright Paul Green, namesake of UNC's Paul Green Theatre, will be dedicated at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 12 at its new site in the N.C. Botanical Garden.

The cabin, used by the late North Carolina dramatist laureate for more than 25 years, will become an ethnobotanical exhibit area.

The first exhibit will be photos of native plants associated with quotes from Green's "Wordbook: An Alphabet of Reminiscence," published in 1990.

Peter White, director of the garden, will preside over the dedication ceremony, and Chancellor Paul Hardin will accept the cabin and a related endowment fund to maintain it from William Joslin, president of the Botanical Garden Foundation.

Green, who wrote the outdoor drama "The Lost Colony," acquired the cabin in Hillsborough and reassembled it near his Chapel Hill home in the 1930s.

The rain site for the event is the garden's Totten Center. For more information call 962-0522.

## School of Medicine presents five awards

The UNC School of Medicine and its Medical Alumni Association honored five individuals with Distinguished Service Awards Friday.

Two recipients, Robert Brashear and John Graham, are longtime medical school faculty members.

Other recipients were Elaine Hill, retired director of volunteer services at UNC Hospitals; Zack Owens, retired surgeon and former president of the North Carolina Medical Society; and Paul Weeks, chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Stuart Bondurant, dean of the medical school, presented the awards.

Brashear helped start the medical school's Division of Orthopedic Surgery when he came to Chapel Hill in 1953.

"As testament to his excellence in teaching, he has been honored by his students as 'best teacher' of the musculoskeletal course in 16 of the 20 years the course has been taught," Bondurant said.

When Graham joined the medical faculty in 1946, he distinguished himself in research, particularly in the areas of genetics and hematology.

"Dr. Graham's studies of coagulation helped unlock the secrets of bleeding disorders, and his discovery of the coagulation deficiency Factor X (Stuart Factor) was revolutionary," Bondurant said.

Hill retired two years ago after having served as director of volunteer services of UNC Hospitals for 23 years.

"UNC Hospitals' volunteer programs flourished under her enthusiastic guidance, and one of Mrs. Hill's biggest successes was leadership in the establishment of a Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill," Bondurant said.

Owens was instrumental in convincing the General Assembly to expand the two-year medical program to a full four-year degree program.

"Dr. Owens emphasized at every opportunity the importance of training N.C. medical students in North Carolina," Bondurant said.

Weeks attended UNC medical school and was one of the first UNC medical school students to conduct research and present his findings to a national medical conference.

"In his two decades at Washington University, he has shaped the plastic and reconstructive surgery program there into one of the most eminent in the country," Bondurant said.



## Raising cane

Members of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity perform a step show before hundreds of onlookers between the Undergraduate Library and Greenlaw Hall Monday afternoon. Seven new members were inducted this week.

# Police redesign patrol districts to combat crime

By Brendan Smith  
Staff Writer

Area merchants and residents might get to know the Chapel Hill police officers who patrol their neighborhoods on a first name basis after patrol districts are redrawn.

Officials have redrawn the department's patrol districts in an effort to control crime in the downtown area and provide more efficient patrol use. The Chapel Hill Town Council discussed the issue at its Monday meeting.

Under the existing district plan, downtown and residential areas surrounding it are divided among three of the town's four patrol districts.

The new plan would make the downtown area one district and subdivide the remaining three districts to provide for

more flexibility in patrols and increased support for downtown patrols, said Chapel Hill interim police Chief Ralph Pendergraph.

In a policy study done with the UNC Department of Operations Research, patrol districts which include the downtown area accounted for 68 percent of calls made to the police.

The large number of calls from downtown resulted in a pull of officers away from residential areas included in the downtown districts, Pendergraph said.

"A real heavy number of calls could take everybody downtown," he said. "Now we will have people specifically assigned to downtown. It won't be draining people off from these other areas."

The police department has hired eight additional officers to help deal with its heavy workload, Pendergraph said. New

officers will allow the department to increase its daily patrols by one officer.

Under the new plan, the downtown district will be patrolled by two officers with any needed back-up coming from patrols in the two neighboring districts.

Additional foot and bike patrols will be provided by the department's E Platoon, which provides support for the department's other platoons.

The remaining three areas have been subdivided, with one officer patrolling each subdivision.

According to a 1989 survey, residents most dissatisfied with police service live in downtown residential areas.

Hallie Woods, a resident of South Graham Street, said someone tried to break into her home last year, and she felt police should do more to fight crime.

"I don't think there is enough protec-

tion," Woods said. "I don't think (the police) know the things that are going on here."

Officers in most of these districts will not need to respond to downtown calls, so they will be able to focus on neighborhood and traffic patrols, Pendergraph said.

Since individual officers will be assigned to the same district on a continuing basis, officers will learn more about their beats and the residents who live there, he said.

Pendergraph said he hoped the new plan would reduce violent crime.

According to annual police report statistics, reports of violent crime increased 30 percent from 1990 to 1991.

Pendergraph said the crime increase was related to an increase in the drug problem in Chapel Hill. The police de-

partment is increasing both undercover operations and high-visibility patrols to fight the drug trade, he said.

Council member Roosevelt Wilkerson said drug dealers were using children as "pawns" because they receive lighter sentences if caught.

"Our situation is extremely dire," he said. "Whatever we can do, we need to do as quickly as possible."

Most residents seem to be satisfied with the police's performance, according to a poll done by the UNC School of Journalism last month.

Of the 554 Chapel Hill residents polled, 85 percent said they were somewhat or very satisfied with the police.

Pendergraph said the changing of the patrol districts would not cost the town any money and could be completed in about three weeks.

## Science fiction pioneer Asimov dies at age 72

### University community mourns loss of author

By Anna Griffin  
State and National Editor

The death of 72-year-old author Isaac Asimov was met with sadness and grief within the University and science fiction communities Monday, as students, faculty members and Asimov fans worldwide mourned the loss of the prolific creator of science fact and fiction.

Asimov, the author of 477 books, died of heart and kidney failure at 2:20 a.m. Monday at New York University Hospital, according to his brother, Stanley Asimov, a vice president for Newsday.

Although Asimov suffered a heart attack in 1977, underwent triple bypass surgery in 1983 and recently had prostate surgery, he had continued to publish articles in science fiction journals up until several months ago.

"Two months ago he missed his first deadline for a column he had written (in Fantasy and Science Fiction Magazine) for 30 years," said Dan Breen, owner of the Second Foundation Bookstore in Chapel Hill. Breen's store takes its name from Asimov's novel, "Second Foundation."

Asimov earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University and served as a chemistry professor at Boston University Medical School during the late 1940s. During that time he also co-wrote a textbook on human metabolism. The hallmark of Asimov's science fiction was its believability.

"He brought real science to sci-fi," Breen said. "For any long-term reader of sci-fi, in this case anyone who has been reading sci-fi for six days or so, you have to have read Asimov."

"He did things... that laid the foundation for what is being written today."

Despite many forays into the world of fantasy fiction, it was Asimov's contributions to sci-fi that made him famous. In 1966, the first three works in Asimov's "Foundation" series were honored with a special Hugo Award, the highest possible honor in the science fiction genre.

Lou Aronica, Asimov's publisher at Bantam Books in New York, said the author's final work, "Forward the Foundation," would be released later this year.

Asimov was born in the former Soviet Union — "to his great surprise," as he wrote in most of his author's notes — on Jan. 2, 1920 and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was three.

His first novel, "Pebble in the Sky," came out in 1949, and one of his most famous works, "I, Robot," was released later that year. In "I, Robot," Asimov introduced his three Laws of Robotics, rules concerning the construction of robot brains.

Asimov wrote that robots must not injure or allow injury to befall a human, must obey human orders and must protect their own existence unless it conflicts with the first two laws. These rules and the way they were incorporated into Asimov's fiction changed the way science fiction writers portrayed robots and other new technological advancements.

In a press release Monday, Aronica said the world would have been a much different place without Asimov, who was named one of just a few Grand Masters by the Science Fiction Writers of America.

"It will be a different world without Isaac Asimov — certainly a different future," Aronica said. "More so than any other writer, he has awakened all of us to the world in which we live in, and to the possibilities of that world, both in fiction and hard science."

## Board of education approves criteria for selection of new superintendent

By Dana Pope  
Assistant City Editor

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education took another step in its search for a new superintendent at a Monday night meeting.

The board unanimously passed a resolution adopting the criteria and standards by which applicants will be screened for the job.

The superintendent search subcommittee, composed of board members, also submitted a screening form to be used when evaluating applicants.

Board member Douglas Breeden commended the subcommittee for its work on the criteria.

"I'm impressed with the amount of work done," he said. "It almost looks like we know where we're going. It makes it easier to go to the next step of asking questions."

The board will make their appointment to the job based on several categories:

- professional background,
- leadership and management skills,
- personal characteristics and
- relationship with the school board.

The new superintendent must have a degree from an accredited college or university and must have three to five years experience as an assistant or associate superintendent, according to a school board memorandum.

Experience as a teacher or principal also is preferred for the position, according to the memo.

School board and search subcommittee member Ken Touw said he was concerned that too much attention was placed on how the new superintendent would interact with students as a whole instead of individually.

"My own personal goal is to address individual students," he said. "(The new superintendent) should try to address the individual needs of students."

Touw suggested the board make mi-

nor revisions to the criteria, but let the issue drop because of time constraints.

School board members ended the meeting about 9:30 p.m. because the NCAA men's basketball championship game began at 9:22 p.m.

Touw also said he thought the listing of criteria and the screening form would make the process easier for the board.

"Within the next couple of weeks, we can focus on certain aspects (of the criteria) in interviews," he said.

Applications for the permanent superintendent job were due Monday.

Subcommittee members will begin screening the applications Saturday and will present a report to the entire school board next Monday.

Superintendent Gerry House finished her term as superintendent last week, leaving to head the Memphis, Tenn., school system.

James Ellerbee is serving as interim superintendent until a permanent replacement is found.

## APO sponsors miniature golf for charity

By John Broadfoot  
Staff Writer

The Pit may not be Augusta National Golf Course, but students will be putting for prizes at UNC on Wednesday and Thursday.

Alpha Phi Omega, a coed service fraternity, will be sponsoring miniature golf in the Pit from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Sally Causey, APO president, said the format was simple. "Walk up to the Pit, pay your money and play," she said. Prospective duffers may pay \$2 for 10 holes of miniature golf or \$5 for an entire day of golf.

John Edwards, Campus Chest chairman who has been organizing the event, said: "There's going to be prizes. We are giving away Bub's cups, coupons for Ben and Jerry's ice cream and buttons."

The buttons, donated by the Shrunken Head Boutique, will read "I played golf in the Pit for charity and all I got was this stupid button."

Duffers also can win Johnny T-Shirt can huggers, Edwards said. Golfers will win prizes by making a hole-in-one on a hole sponsored by one of the area merchants, he said.

This project will not be as big a fundraiser as some of the events sponsored by APO during the year. "This is more of a 'get the campus involved and have fun' kind of project," Edwards said.

Causey said APO had been involved all year in raising money for charity. "We are looking at \$15,000 for this year," she said.

Beth Snyder, APO membership vice president, said fraternity members had raised the money through several activities.

"We ushered football and basket- ball

games and did a survey for the buses that run in this area," she said. "We rode every single bus."

"At the end of the school year, we have a final banquet, where we invite a representative of each of the three charities, and we'll present them with a check at this time," she said.

Fraternity members already have chosen the charities to receive funds.

"The money will be divided equally between Meals on Wheels, Chapel Hill Teen Center and scouting in this area," Snyder said.

"Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will both get some money."

Causey said volunteering at the Teen Center was particularly rewarding for the APO members.

"We provide volunteer staff for the Teen Center," she said. "That's kind of neat because we get to see where the money is going."

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