

'12 Strangers' unites students and faculty

By Lauren McSwain
Contributing Reporter

For the past four years, the Student Alumni Council's biggest annual undertaking has been organizing the immensely popular "Dinner with 12 Strangers" events each spring.

"This program provides not only a home-cooked meal but also a chance to meet new people in a new environment," freshman Holly Langmuir, the chairwoman of the entirely student-run dinner committee, said. Under Langmuir, other students serve as "Dinner Captains"

and are in charge of coordinating their particular dinner.

Last year, nine dinners were held with 63 students and 11 faculty participants, with an additional 30 students and six more faculty members on a waiting list.

This year, the demand among students and faculty has been even higher, according to Josh Kellet, the adviser to the Student Alumni Council.

"There's been a huge faculty and student response—only the alumni response has been down. In fact, we've had to turn some people away because of a lack of homes in which

to host. Although there are 5,500 to 6,000 Wake alumni in Winston and surrounding Forsyth County alone, we simply have not had enough alumni homes volunteered for the number of eager participants," he said.

The "12 strangers" at each dinner include approximately eight students, a faculty member and his or her guest, an alumnus and his or her guest. However, Kellet said, "This year it's been more like 'Dinner with 14 or so Strangers,' because we've allowed more students and faculty to participate, since the demand has been so high."

"This program provides not only a home-cooked meal but also a chance to meet new people in a new environment."

Holly Langmuir

Chairwoman, dinner committee

At a recent dinner, two sets of alumni hosted a faculty member and his spouse, another faculty member, nine female students and one male student. "We have tended to have a few more girls asking to join than boys," Kellet said, "al-

though I'm not really sure why."

"I really enjoyed the dinner," freshman Maria Toler, a recent participant, said. "The food was free and delicious, and I liked hearing the alumni stories about how campus used to be. Also it was interesting to meet two new faculty members and lots of other Wake students I didn't know before. I think it was a nice little evening break from everything."

Next year the program may be expanded to two semesters instead of spring semester only in hopes that this will draw in more alumni participation, which is essential for

the program's success.

"I fear that we've been competing with basketball season too much. Maybe doing it in fall semester will encourage more alumni to participate and make more dinners possible for all the interested students," Kellet said.

Currently students may join the Student Alumni Council by interest, and not application. Anyone seeking information about the council may contact Amy Ng, president. Students, faculty and alumni interested in participating in a "Dinner with 12 Strangers" should call Kellet at Ext. 5263.



A picture's worth a thousand words

Politics assistant, Elide Vargas, calls someone from her office, which she has decorated with pictures from around the world.

Amer Khan/Old Gold and Black

POLICE BEAT

Student cheats taxi driver out of late-night fare

A student failed to pay for his taxi after he was driven from an off-campus location to Lot B, between Taylor and Davis houses, at 3:09 a.m. March 27. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

Theft

A videocassette recorder was stolen from a room in Tribble Hall around 2 a.m. March 25. The item was worth \$300.

Keys belonging to a student were stolen from a desk in Tribble Hall at 12:02 a.m. on March 24.

A student's bicycle was stolen from outside Efid Residence Hall between 10 a.m. March 21 and 11:30 a.m. March 24. The bicycle was worth \$230.

Another student's bicycle was stolen from a bicycle rack outside Efid House between 9 p.m. March 17 and 4 p.m. March 24. The bicycle was worth \$125.

A student's \$200 camera was stolen from a student lounge in Babcock Residence Hall around 10 p.m. March 21.

Makeup belonging to a student was stolen from a suite bathroom in Davis House between 11 p.m. March 24 and 7:59 a.m. March 25.

A sign was removed from a pizza delivery vehicle around 1 a.m. March 27. The vehicle was parked in Lot N, between Poteat and Kitchin houses.

A student's bicycle was stolen from a bicycle rack outside Palmer Residence Hall between 4 p.m. March 27 and 5 p.m. March 28. The bicycle was worth \$520.

Damage

Someone bent the hood ornament on a student's car between 9 p.m. March 17 and 1:50 p.m. March 22. The incident occurred in Lot Q,

next to the Scales Fine Arts Center.

A window in Reynolds Gymnasium was broken between 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. March 26.

The left front headlight on a student's vehicle was damaged between 7:30 p.m. March 26 and 8:50 a.m. March 28. The vehicle was parked in Lot P, behind Huffman Residence Hall.

Someone broke into a vehicle parked in Lot Q between 3 p.m. March 27 and 3:50 p.m. March 28. Items in the vehicle were disturbed, but nothing was taken. Entry into the vehicle was gained by breaking a window.

Miscellaneous

An underage student was found intoxicated and in possession of alcohol around 12:07 a.m. March 26 in Lot N. University Police officers saw the student while responding to a report about a damaged vehicle parked in Lot N.

The incident was forwarded to Harold Holmes, an associate vice president and the dean of student services.

Two intoxicated students created a disturbance at 2:02 a.m. outside Taylor March 26.

The students were arguing about a basketball game. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

University Police found an intoxicated underage student at 3:07 a.m. at Student Apartments. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

A student punched another student in Poteat at 1:10 a.m. March 28.

The injured student was taken to Student Health Services for treatment. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

At 1:49 a.m. March 27, a student was issued a state citation for driving a vehicle after drinking alcohol.

A University Police officer stopped the student along Wake Forest Road after he ran a stop sign and a red light. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

University Police responded to 61 calls from March 22 to March 28, including 20 incidents and investigations and 41 requests for service.

WORLD WIDE

U.S. Army servicemen missing in Macedonia

MACEDONIA — Three U.S. Army servicemen were missing near the Yugoslav border March 31 after reporting small arms fire just before losing radio contact. Final radio contact reported that the soldiers' Humvee was surrounded by hostile forces and was under attack. They had been conducting the mission in an Army Humvee during a reconnaissance mission and had been ambushed after going off-road in the vehicle, the Pentagon and NATO officials said.

It is unknown whether the soldiers were taken hostage by hostile forces. A quick search and rescue mission involving air and ground forces was launched immediately, according to U.S. officials.

San Francisco drag troupe creates stir

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence may not be allowed to perpetually indulge on Easter Sunday if Mayor Willie Brown has his way. When the habit-wearing drag queens were given a permit to throw an Easter Sunday street party, Brown said it should probably be rescheduled for another day. A motion to alter or revoke the group's permit has been submitted

to the Board of Supervisors.

"I hope our Board of Supervisors will understand that Easter is incredibly sensitive. As a government, obviously, we support the idea of free speech and the freedom of expression," Brown said, "but there are limits."

The issue arose after local Roman Catholics complained to City Hall about the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence obtaining a permit to close down several streets in the Castro District. The Sisters, known for their outrageous wigs and makeup, also caused a stir in the city during a 1987 visit from the pope, which included, but was not limited to, their "exorcism" of the pope.

Wildlife rangers track errant emu in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, FL. — Events took a turn for the bizarre at St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge 20 miles south of Tallahassee, Fla. An emu, a five-foot-tall, hissing, snapping, ostrich-wannabe has been expressing its dislike for park visitors by chasing them down nature trails.

"We don't know how it got here. There's not much point in trying to chase him and catch him, because these birds can really run," ranger Robin Will said. Rangers have tried to use dog food to lure the emu into the open so they can subdue it with a tranquilizer gun. So far they have had no luck. If the emu is caught he will most likely be sold to a zoo or a commercial emu ranch,

Hemp plan may hit U. of Minn.

By John Adams
U-Wire

Legislators sat around a table late into the evening passing around a bag of hemp — hemp chips, that is. Legislators in the House Agriculture Committee were debating the merits of a bill that would allow the University of Minnesota to conduct research on industrial hemp. Made from the same plant as marijuana — cannabis sativa L. — the product is thus illegal to grow.

The bill is intended to give struggling Minnesota farmers another possible crop.

It was introduced by Sen. Roger Moe, whose district includes the farm-laden Red River Valley in northwestern Minnesota and Rep. Phyllis Kahn, who represents most of the Minneapolis campus.

But opponents of the bill say there is only a small market for industrial hemp and that growing it will make keeping marijuana illegal more difficult.

The bill would legalize the planting of industrial hemp crops for research purposes. With a pro-industrial hemp governor and a struggling farm economy, Minnesota has a good chance of passing the bill; it recently passed in the Senate by a vote of 54-4 and is in committee in the House. If the bill passes, the university's \$150,000 research would still need the permission of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, which categorizes industrial hemp as a drug — but that stance might be changing. DEA Administrator Thomas

Constantine stated in a recent letter to a legislator in Hawaii, which is one of 10 other states also attempting to grow industrial hemp, that the enforcement agency is "actively reviewing the petition (to remove industrial hemp from the Controlled Substances Act) and has made substantial progress toward completion."

In a previous letter he stated, "With respect to hemp, due to the recent commercial interest in its cultivation, the DEA is reviewing the security regulations pertaining to the cultivation of cannabis sativa L. for industrial purposes, to include hemp."

Hemp advocates say more than 20,000 products can be produced from industrial hemp and that it is better for the environment than similar products in the market, such as wood and cotton.

Because industrial hemp uses fewer pesticides than cotton and produces more pulp for making paper than a similar-sized stand of trees, proponents say it has many ecological and marketable benefits. Industrial hemp products range from those made with the bast fibers in the stalk of the plant such as jeans, socks and paper to hemp seeds that produce food products, personal hygiene products and industrial goods such as paint.

"The introduction of hemp to West Central Minnesota would add much-needed diversity into the current crop rotation and help minimize weed and insect pressures," said Gary Lemme, who, as head of the West Central Experiment Sta-

The bill would legalize the planting of industrial hemp crops for research purposes.

tion at the University of Minnesota-Morris, would conduct the field research for industrial hemp if permitted by the legislature and the DEA. Lemme added that no herbicides or insecticides will be needed in the crop research.

After the research is conducted in the field, the crop would be taken to the department of wood and paper science on the St. Paul campus where it would be tested as an alternative to wood pulp for producing paper.

If the DEA does categorize industrial hemp as a crop, farmers would likely be required to register the crop with the state and have it monitored by law enforcement officials, which would be fine with farmer Stephanie Henriksen.

Jeanette McDougal does not want to see industrial hemp and marijuana in different DEA categories. McDougal is the co-chairwoman of the Minnesota chapter of Drug Watch International, an organization that promotes a drug-free culture.

Minnesota had a more restrictive industrial hemp bill in 1998 that passed through the House and Senate but was vetoed by former Gov. Arne Carlson. The outgoing governor sided with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, which argued the bill would be difficult

to enforce.

But Gov. Jesse Ventura supports industrial hemp research. Ventura campaigned in favor of industrial hemp and said he would sign a bill allowing it.

Sam Baxter, a co-owner of Sativa's Closet in the Mall of America, brought the hemp chips to the House Agriculture Committee meeting. Sativa is the species name for the plant that produces marijuana as well as the industrial hemp goods in his store.

Most of the goods in the store are manufactured in the United States with imported industrial hemp fabric. Baxter said there is an American market for industrial hemp and that his business is growing, but he said education is the key.

"We've had 50 years of negative education about hemp. Now we need to turn it around," he said, referring to the public's misconception that industrial hemp and marijuana are the same thing.

Law enforcement of marijuana plants could be difficult because the industrial hemp plant and the marijuana plant are almost indistinguishable without the aid of a chemical test.

A marijuana plant has a THC level, the psychoactive component of the plant, of between 3 percent and 15 percent. An industrial hemp plant contains less than 0.3 percent THC.

John Adams writes for the Minnesota Daily, the student newspaper of the University of Minnesota.