

# Fifteen lawsuits pending against Chapel Hill

By CINDY BOWERS  
Staff Writer

Two lawsuits recently filed against the town of Chapel Hill and the Chapel Hill Town Council bring the number of pending lawsuits involving the town up to 15. One of the two most recent suits was filed by communication consultant Stephen Putnam who charges the town with breach of contract for failing to cooperate with his efforts to improve the town's troubled Public Safety Officer program.

The other suit, filed by Graham Court Associates of Charlotte, challenges the Town Council's decision to deny a special use permit for the conversion of Graham Court Apartments to condominiums.

Putnam was hired to investigate problems in the town's PSO program, which combines the duties of fire and police personnel with emergency medical training. Putnam had been conducting seminars to improve communication between town officials and PSOs, firemen and police officers. After abruptly resigning Feb. 11, Putnam issued a statement saying that a lack of cooperation from Town Manager Gene Shipman sabotaged his efforts to improve the PSO program. Without Shipman's help, he was unable to solve morale problems in the PSO program, Putnam said.

Both lawsuits were filed in Orange County Superior Court March 12. Hearing dates have not been set in either case.

"Putnam is asking for \$2,400—the balance of his contract price," Town Attorney Emery Denny said this week.

The suit filed against the town by Graham Court Associates asks the court to overrule the Town Council's Feb. 13 decision to reject the condominium conversion request. The council members refused to grant a special use permit because they felt a conversion would endanger the already limited rental housing supply in Chapel Hill. The suit challenges the town's legal authority to deny a special use permit on that basis.

Four other suits filed against the town this year stem from developer Roger Messer's Laurel Hill condominium development on Parker Road.

Since late 1978, Messer tried to gain the council's approval of his project, which had prompted strong protest from area residents. The council approved the much-delayed project in November 1979. But in December, Messer requested an expansion of the development, and the council decided he must go through the special use process again. The expanded project has been approved.

Of Messer's four suits against the town, one suit that

was filed in U. S. District Court challenges the constitutionality of the town's special use process. The other three suits have been filed in Orange County Superior Court. The suits challenge specific requirements of Messer's special use permit, object to having to go through the special use process twice and challenges the town's refusal to grant two special use permits for the same property—one for the condominium development and one for an alternate subdivision plan.

Another case involving Chapel Hill and the University will be heard by the N. C. Supreme Court this month. The case is a lawsuit brought by Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County against the University and concerns taxation of University property, including the Carolina Inn, by the local governments.

"The town assessed (the properties) for taxes and the University objected to the assessment," Denny said. "The properties are not being used for education. They're being used by private commercial establishment."

Chapel Hill is also involved in a legal dispute with a former employee who charges the town with sex discrimination. Diane Becton who was fired by the town, has taken her case to the state Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.

## News In Brief

### Officials investigating train crash

LAKEVIEW (AP)—Railroad officials said Thursday they have virtually ruled out a malfunction in the signal system as the cause of a head-on collision between Amtrak's Silver Star passenger train and a freight train.

Ray Bullard, assistant vice president of Seaboard Coast Line Railroad in Jacksonville, Fla., said, "The initial field check of the signal system governing the movement of the passenger train and the freight train indicated that the signal system was functioning properly."

The northbound passenger train, carrying about 300 persons, collided with the freight train shortly after 7:30 a.m. Wednesday near Lakeview, about 60 miles south of Raleigh. Authorities said 123 persons were treated at Moore Memorial Hospital in Pinehurst.

### Guerillas free two more hostages

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Guerrillas occupying the Dominican Republic Embassy freed a Colombian protocol officer and a Dominican citizen Thursday, leaving 25 hostages still inside. The two freed hostages left the embassy shortly after noon accompanied by Rabbi David Sharbani, who had entered about an hour earlier.

Authorities identified the two as Mario Guzman Cabrales, a Dominican inside the embassy when it was seized Feb. 27, and Edgar Antonio Hernandez Royas, a minor protocol officer from the Colombian Foreign Ministry. The guerrillas had promised to release non-diplomatic hostages this week because of the Easter holiday. Last Sunday they freed two Colombian nationals.

### Accident releases lethal gas

SOMERVILLE, Mass. (AP)—A locomotive crashed into a chemical tanker car at a railyard three miles from downtown Boston Thursday, releasing lethal gas that sent at least 74 persons to hospitals and forced the evacuation of about 2,000 others.

Clouds of toxic gas wafted over Boston, but officials said the gas posed no immediate threat to the city or to nearby Cambridge.

About 2,000 people fled houses, business and schools surrounding the Interbelt Industrial Park section of Somerville, a largely industrial neighborhood on the outskirts of Boston, after the accident.

### cars

From page 1

the grief it would save would make it worth the time."

Choosing the place to get your car repaired should not be left to chance, SCAU advises. Quentin Anderson of the Carolina Auto Club said if you have no experience in getting your car repaired, ask friends for recommendations or check with the Better Business Bureau.

Max Scroggs, auto mechanics teacher at Chapel Hill High School, said among local garages he would recommend only David Coggin Ford and Colonial Motors, Inc. for repair work.

"I know too much about too many places to send someone to them," Scroggs said. "Some of the stuff that goes on is just wrong."

"Sometimes it's not done intentionally, the mechanic just doesn't have enough training. They're not willing to admit they're wrong. They want to cover it up. I consider it wrong and it goes on too much in this area."

A survey conducted by *The Daily Tar Heel* showed that shopping around for auto repairs can save some money.

Prices for a standard tune-up varied widely at those garages contacted. The lowest price was \$13, not including parts for a four-cylinder engine at Ragan's Amoco. The highest tune-up estimate was \$70 at Uzzle Cadillac-Oldsmobile for a tune-up of a V-8 engine with parts included.

Prices for installing shock absorbers ranged from \$3.50 at F&F Automotive to \$6.90 at Coggin Pontiac. A spokesman for Foreign Car Service advised students to watch for a sale at Sears to buy their shocks.

Replacing "MacPherson Struts," one type of shock absorber used by many new cars, costs much more than standard shocks.

Old Hickory Motors gave the lowest price for getting a car greased or a lube job at \$1.80. East Franklin Union 76 gave the highest price at \$5.50.

Many mechanics quoting prices said the amount they charged depended heavily on the individual job. For example, the amount and difficulty of work done will affect the price.

At \$2 Colonial Motors and Edmon's Tar Heel 66 are the least expensive places to have a battery charged, while Coggin Pontiac is highest at \$6.90.

The lowest labor charge, \$12 an hour, is at F&F Automotive. The highest was Coggin Pontiac at \$23.

Towing charges range from \$12 to \$25, and charges for jump starts range from \$5 to \$10. Charges for towing and jump starting depend on the distance traveled by the service truck.

Some establishments offering towing service are: Blue Hill Garage, Brinkley's Eastgate Gulf, Butlers Garage, East Franklin Union 76, Eastgate Amoco, Edmon's Tar Heel "66", McFarling's Exxon and Floyd Williams Wreckers Service.

Some that give jump starts are: Brinkley's Eastgate Gulf, Butlers Garage, Colonial Motors, East Franklin Union 76, Eastgate Amoco, Edmon's Tar Heel "66", Loy's Sunoco, McFarling's Exxon, Ragan's American Service and Village Service Station.

If students or other consumers do not want to go to the local station, they can have their cars repaired by the Chapel Hill High School auto mechanics class.

Scroggs said he usually is booked up five or six days in advance, and it is necessary to call and make an appointment for repairs.

## GPSF

Barnhill, counsel for the defense, then asked Lamb if there were any differences in the two elections.

The defense contends that Lamb's statistics comparing the two elections were not appropriate since there were more issues and persons concerned with the Feb. 13 election than the Feb. 5 election.

Lamb also testified that campaign literature he posted was destroyed or removed and that he saw a campaign poster favoring the referendum within 50 feet of the polling site the day of the election.

Barnhill asked Lamb why he did not report the violation to the poll tender or to elections board chairman Simpson.

Lamb said he reported the violation to the student Attorney General Gary Jones on the

day of the election but that Jones failed to take any action. According to the Student Government constitution, the attorney general does not have any jurisdiction over such a violation.

Furthermore, Jones testified Wednesday that his conversation with Lamb on the day of the election was very informal and run-of-the-mill. "I never got the impression—maybe that's faulty judgment on my part—that he was making a formal charge," Jones said. "The sole purpose of that conversation was to see how Brad was getting along."

Jones said Lamb told him about the poster and other election violations at which point Jones said he made the comment that it sounded like another Student Supreme Court case in the making. Jones said Lamb then

replied that it all depended on who won the election.

Jim Woolford, a political science graduate student and the poll tender at the med school cafeteria Feb. 5, said he did not see the poster: that was within 50 feet of the ballot box. According to the elections bylaws it is the responsibility of the poll tender to remove all election material within 50 feet of the ballot box on the day of the election.

Simpson explained that the ballots cast at the medical school cafeteria exceeded the number of students registered to vote by 55 ballots because the elections board had lost a registration sheet after the elections. He said the board has since voided 55 of the affirmative votes.

## "WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?"

Psalms 2:1 and Acts 4:25

Luke 23:

33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 ¶Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar.

37 And saying, If thou be the King of the Jews, save thyself.

38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 ¶And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

46 ¶And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he

said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

50 ¶And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counselor, and he was a good man, and a just:

52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

Luke 24:

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.

7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

8 And they remembered his words.

9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

P.O. BOX 405 DECATUR, GEORGIA 30031

## The Marines Are Coming!

Platoon Leaders Class



NROTC SCHOLARSHIP

Officers Candidate Class

MARINE RESERVE

### AIR GROUND LAW

THE PLATOON LEADERS CLASS PROGRAM (PLC) OFFERS A COMMISSION AS A 2ND LIEUTENANT IN THE U. S. MARINE CORPS AFTER GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE. FRESHMEN THROUGH GRADUATES INCLUDING LAW STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN. HERE ARE A FEW OF THE PROGRAM FEATURES AVAILABLE TO MEN WHO CAN QUALIFY:

1. Summer Training - Good Salary.
2. Aviation, Ground and Law options available.
3. \$100.00 a month during school year.
4. Challenging career with competitive salary and benefits after college.
5. Option to drop from program up to graduation from college.

FULL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS. MINIMAL COMMITMENT, GOOD PAY, WEEKEND PROGRAM - THE RESERVES.

MAJOR COOK FLORENCE WILL BE AT THE STUDENT UNION THE 8TH, 9TH, AND 10TH OF APRIL 1980 TO INTERVIEW THOSE INTERESTED. "COME AS YOU ARE. NO RESUME REQUIRED."

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL MAJOR FLORENCE'S OFFICE COLLECT AT 755-4174.

## ARE YOU MISSING THE BOAT?



## THE NAVY OFFERS

- SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES
- IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT AT UP TO \$15,000 PER YEAR UPON GRADUATION

NAVY SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORS AND PLACEMENT OFFICERS Will be in the Naval Armory on campus to talk, WITHOUT OBLIGATION, to students interested from MAR. 31-APR. 4

Contact Mrs. Horne at 933-1198 (2344) for an appointment.