

news

UNC Press to move in new offices soon

By David Thompson

The UNC Press building is scheduled to open next week after controversy that has marked its construction from the beginning.

Located on Boundary Street, the complex will house administrative and editorial offices for the Press. The move from the Press offices currently located in Bynum Hall will begin Monday.

Pre-final inspection was held in early June and the final inspection was a few weeks later, said Jake Bryant, director of UNC engineering and construction.

The total cost of the Press offices, and the warehouse, which is located on Airport Road, is approximately \$720,000, Bryant said.

A dispute between the town and the University hampered early planning for the building's construction.

The Chapel Hill Historic District Commission initially denied the University a certificate of appropriateness, preventing the University from obtaining a building permit.

After minor changes, state Deputy Attorney General Andrew Vanore said the certificate was not necessary. The committee again denied the motion. Some committee members and residents said the building did not fit in with the adjoining neighborhood.

"I'm afraid that despite good will between University officials and members of this commission, the original problem is still there," said Joe Herzenberg who was



New UNC Press building on Boundary Street ... move planned for next week Photo by Jack Mohr

Who will feed Charlie?

The relocation operation for the UNC Press has been running rather smoothly except for one perplexing problem which has been haunting Gwen Duffie, managing editor of the Press, for the past week—what to do about Charlie.

Charlie has been dropping by Duffie's office to dine for the past seven or eight years. When the Press moves and Duffie no longer occupies that office, who will feed Charlie?

Actually, Charlie is a squirrel. Charlie never comes alone, but usually is accompanied by a few squirrels, a male and female cardinal and some blue jays. When asked how Charlie could be recognized, Duffie described him as "the friendliest squirrel."

"Three times a morning and late in the afternoon," Duffie said, "are their usual

mealtimes." But Charlie and his gang have grown so accustomed to their daily feedings of raw peanuts that the absence of their feasts may prove devastating.

One concerned citizen suggested that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals bring Duffie a cage so she could transport Charlie and his friends to their new location, but Duffie found that solution impractical.

Attempts to lure Charlie to the third floor, occupied by the news bureau, for meals have been only partially successful. Duffie's latest attempt at a solution was forcing herself to ignore him, but she found it too painful.

—Lisa Goldfarb

then the commission's chairman. "It (the building) is just too large."

In May 1979, the N.C. General Assembly passed an amended bill to free the 16-campus UNC system from control by local historic districts. The amendment paved the way for the building's construction.

Some people felt this law was passed as a result of pressure from the University. "I believe the state, more than anybody else, should be a good neighbor," Attorney General Rufus Edmisten said.

"Historic district regulations should be like zoning laws. The state government cannot come in and run roughshod over (zoning laws) and establish a slaughterhouse in the middle of town," Edmisten said.

However, John Temple, UNC vice chancellor for business and finance, has denied these allegations. "The state and the University have influence in the General

Assembly," he said, "but it wasn't a matter of power politics. We didn't go over there lobbying our friends and applying pressure."

The completed building will not be used to warehouse books, and no books will be printed there. It houses office space, kitchen facilities and darkrooms. The two-story structure was built by Trout and Riggs Construction Co.

Employees interviewed said they are satisfied with the move.

"I'm looking forward to moving to the new facilities," said Alice Woods, a bookkeeping machine operator at the Press. "It's a beautiful building, and the employees will find it easy to park."

She cited one drawback to the move. "I will miss being on campus. I always liked that," Woods said. "I like being where I can see people come and go, and at the new building I can't."

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