

# Noise regulations snag athletic facility

By LUCY HOOD  
Staff Writer

A limit placed on the noise level during basketball games and rock concerts to be held at the new athletic complex has created a stumbling block in the construction plans for the building.

In July, the Chapel Hill Town Council granted the University a special use permit to build the athletic center between Manning Drive and Mason Farm Road. The permit includes a special noise regulation that restricts the amount of noise caused by basketball games, rock concerts and any other events held in the center.

Town Council member Joe Straley said an extended source will be used to measure the noise level rather than a point source which is the basis for measurement in the regular noise ordinance for Chapel Hill.

This means that the entire building will be considered the source from which to measure the noise level instead of one central source such as an amplifier.

As a result, at a distance of 450 feet, the town would tolerate 50 decibels without the special use permit and 70 decibels with it.

Now that the town has made its stand, the University must tackle the problem of constructing a facility that will meet the noise requirements.

Student Body President Bob Saunders said he was assured at a Board of Trustees' meeting in March that the athletic complex would be a multipurpose facility and that concerts would be held in it.

Vice chancellor of Business Affairs John Temple is contemplating two building plans. One design calls for a fabric roof which is preferred to the second design which calls for a solid roof, Temple said. The fabric roof is solid except for a fabric opening in the center.

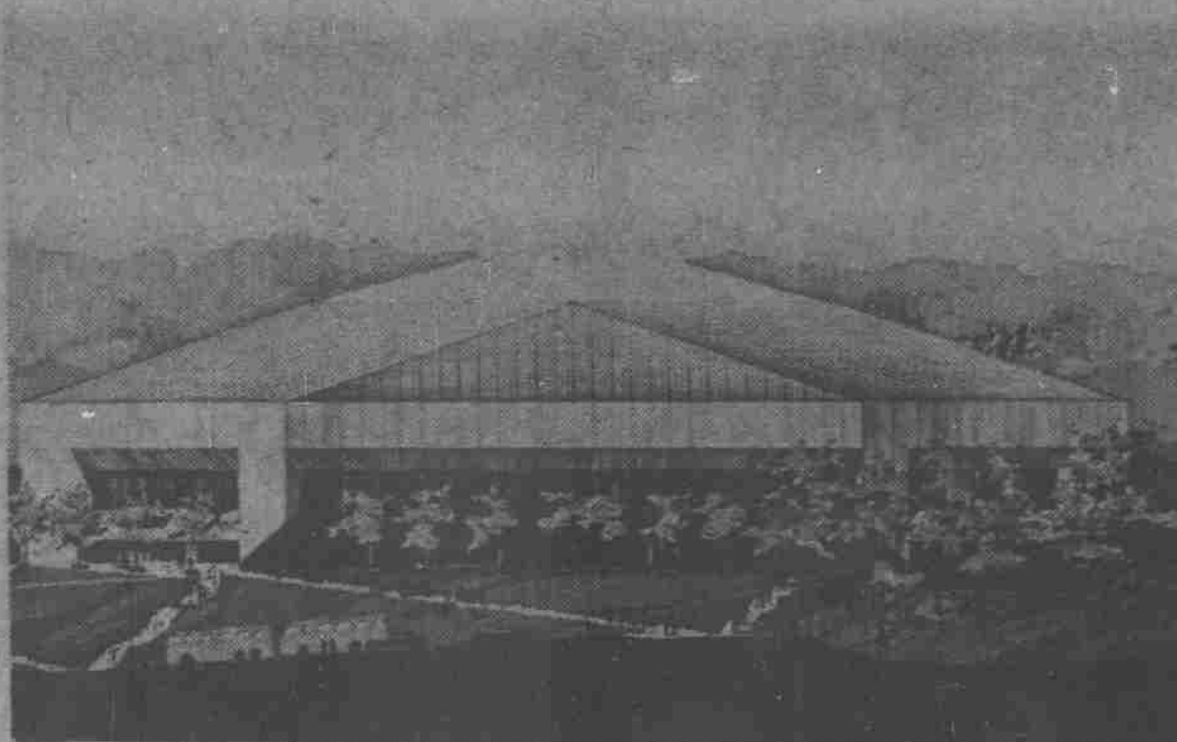
The advantages of a fabric roof, he said, would be that:

- the opening would increase circulation throughout the building and would maintain a four degree decrease in temperature during the summer.

- day use of the building would not require lighting, because sufficient light could filter through the opening.

- the inside appearance of the building would create a "back-to-nature" feeling of being outdoors.

However, this construction is relatively new, and the long-term effects



Artists drawing of proposed UNC athletic facility...noise limits might delay construction

are unknown. Therefore, the depreciation of the building as far as every day wear-and-tear goes is not known either, Saunders said.

"This structure has come about in the last five years, so no long-term studies have been done," he said.

It is known, however, that the fabric roof will not contain noise as well as a solid roof would, Temple said. He added that the solid roof probably would contain the noise enough to meet the noise requirement of the special use permit, whereas the fabric roof probably would not.

Temple must decide by October whether the advantages of a fabric roof would outweigh the risk of violating the special use permit.

A happy medium could be the installation of insulation during concerts and other potentially noisy events. Both Saunders and Temple mentioned this as an alternative but Saunders said this plan was too expensive.

The additional cost would come from installing a cooling system to

compensate for the increase in heat caused by the insulation, Temple said.

Straley said that he does not understand the trouble that the noise restriction is causing the University.

To begin with, the University is getting a break from the Chapel Hill noise ordinance, because the noise level will be measured at a distance of 450 feet (the distance from the athletic complex to Mason Farm Road) instead of 75 feet, Straley said.

"The University is getting off easy, because they're planning to put trees around the building," he said. The trees absorb the sound so that the noise level is not as loud when it reaches 450 feet as it would be otherwise, Straley said.

"I don't think excitement is merited. I can't believe this facility will really bother anybody," he said.

He did add that anyone could obtain a special permit from the police department if there was a possibility that a concert or other event would violate the special use permit.

# Housing seeks loan to build off campus

By DEBBIE GOODSON  
and DALE JENKINS  
Staff Writers

In an effort to alleviate the problem of the housing shortage on the UNC campus, the University is seeking a \$4 million federal loan to use to finance apartments for approximately 960 students.

Officials submitted the application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on Aug. 15, although the final approval of the loan will be prolonged until the next meeting of the North Carolina General Assembly at the beginning of 1981.

Among many other requests from universities, the General Assembly will decide whether to authorize UNC to borrow the money to finance the project.

Thomas S. Shumate, University architect, said Carolina's request for funding would not be the only one put before the General Assembly by the UNC system. He said he hoped the loan would be recognized as one of the major legitimate proposals, however.

The extent of the housing crunch in Chapel Hill is measured by the number of students that express a desire to live on campus as compared to the number of apartment units that could be placed on each piece of available land, Shumate said.

Felix L. Joyner, University vice president for finance, said that the loan would allow for the construction of apartment units off East Franklin Street. Completion of the project tentatively is scheduled for the 1982 fall semester at a total cost of \$14 million.

Joyner said that the proposed apartments would be located on a 14-acre section near the intersection of East Franklin Street and Elliot Road.

The apartments will include 10 buildings, each housing six suites consisting of four one-person bedrooms and a living room, a kitchen and bath.

The administration also plans to include in its budget proposal to the UNC Board of Governors a request for authorization to issue revenue bonds to finance the project.

If the Board of Governors approves the budget proposal, it must then be sent to the state Advisory Budget Commission, which upon approval, would submit it to the North Carolina General Assembly, where the final decision would be made.

"Apartment-type construction is more attractive than traditional dormitory housing," Joyner said. "With the congestion on campus and the problem of adequate parking, apartments are more feasible."

Chapel Hill and Carrboro apartments remain filled. As of Thursday, the Department of Housing reported vacancies in only one complex, Greenbelt Apartments in Carrboro, and those apartments will not be empty until September.

Meanwhile, 99 students remain on a waiting list for living spaces off campus, said Brenda Allen, the University's off-campus housing director. An appeal has gone out to Chapel Hill residents to open their homes to students and Allen said that although response has been good, it has not been as good as hoped for.

# Chairman seeks variety

By TED AVERY  
Staff Writer

The new co-chairman of the Afro-American Studies curriculum said last week he wants to help make the curriculum's majors more marketable and attract more white students to the program.

Colin A. Palmer was appointed history professor and co-chairman of the Afro-American Studies portion of the Afro-American and African Studies curriculum July 1.

To make it easier for graduates of the curriculum to find jobs, Palmer plans to require students to take several courses in a traditional major, such as history or economics.

"The only way to get majors is to divest students of the notion that they can't get a job with a major in Afro-American Studies," Palmer said.

Palmer also wants to make the program more attractive to white

students. "Afro-American Studies are not only for black students. White students can benefit much more," he said.

And to enhance the curriculum, Palmer will try to attract more scholars. "My commitment as director is to improve and strengthen academic aspects of the program through a focus on scholarship," Palmer said.

"Dean (Samuel) Williamson will be a source of strength for the program," he said. "He has promised total support for establishing a distinguished Afro-American Studies program." Williamson is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Palmer, a native of Jamaica, came to Chapel Hill from Oakland University in Michigan.

He has taught courses in Latin American, Mexican and Afro-American history, slavery and race relations in the New World and black life and culture in the United States and Cuba.

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