

# NEWS

## Summer CGC allows WXYC surplus fund to finance generator

By JEFF HIDAY

The Summer Campus Governing Council and student radio station WXYC discussed a solution Tuesday night which would let WXYC pay for an "Exciter" stereo generator, the cost of which had been originally underestimated.

The CGC allocated \$7,000 last March for the generator as a capital expenditure (money designated for a specific item or items). But the generator, described by station officials as "the heart of the transmitter," actually cost \$7,386. WXYC proposed the extra \$386 be transferred from one of their other capital expenditure accounts which contained surplus funds.

WXYC officials said if one capital expenditure did not deplete the allocated funds, the surplus from that account should be transferred to the generator account. But CGC by-laws prohibit such transfers.

Student Body President Scott Norberg said, "We cannot authorize transfers. According to the rules under which capital expenditures were allocated, transfers within capital expenditure categories aren't possible. We recommend that the WXYC Board of Directors make up the difference for the "Exciter" from their general surplus."

WXYC's general surplus account contains enough funds to cover the \$386 discrepancy. Under this plan, money would not be transferred, but one check would be written for the generator, drawing funds from two accounts.

In other business, CGC approved Norberg's appointments of David Bebbler, a senior from Asheville, and Alice Glover, a senior from Charlotte, to the Summer Honor Court.

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## New hospital considered

By LYNNE THOMSON

Chapel Hill may have a new private hospital if the Hospital Corporation of America can persuade the state to agree that there is a need for one.

HCA has obtained an option to buy 30 acres between Eastown Office Park and Erwin Road to locate the 150-bed facility, if the state grants the certificate of need.

Since the proposed hospital would be built solely with private funds, it would not be obligated to provide free service to those unable to pay but not qualifying for Medicare or Medicaid. Many private hospitals have federal government loans requiring them to provide some service for the needy.

But the HCA's policy is to accept any patient that a staff physician declares admissible, and to treat anyone in the emergency room who requires treatment, said Richard McCaskill, HCA vice president for planning and development.

This policy means anyone needing care will get it regardless of ability to pay for it, he said.

McCaskill called the dollar value of the care a moral obligation. He said that HCA would have to calculate the amount donated to charity.

"We think we meet our moral obligations better than many facilities fulfill their legal ones," McCaskill said.

The plans for the hospital are being reviewed by the Capital Health Systems Agency which will make a recommendation to the state on whether to issue a certificate of need, said Roy Greenlaw, CHSA's Director of Review Services.

The certificate of need is required under the National Health Planning Resource Development Program, of which the health systems agency is a part.

Chapel Hill pediatrician Dr. Robert Senior served as president of the Village Medical Society last year when the proposal for the new hospital surfaced.

"The majority of practicing physicians thought it would be valuable to have the HCA survey our practice

to see if it is needed," he said.

John Gastineau, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, said that his organization was looking at the hospital issue, but would not take a position on it.

A current state plan cites Region J, a multi-county area including Orange County, as having 345 extra hospital beds.

David Ford, HCA director for domestic development, said his company would present more recent population figures to prove the area's need for another hospital.

Although one study surveying 88 of HCA's hospitals ranked the majority of them in the top 10 percent nationwide for patient-per-day costs, these private hospitals provide for the needy as well as the wealthy.

Medicare, a federal program providing health care to the poor, and Medicaid, a Social Security program providing health care for persons receiving other Social Security benefits including most Americans over 65, account for more than one-third of HCA's gross income.

That income in 1976 was \$506 million, making the firm, based in Nashville, Tenn., the largest provider of private health care in the world.

The HCA operates the Raleigh Community Hospital. One Raleigh physician who practices there said both the doctors and the patients seemed to like it better.

"The patients like it because it is small enough to seem more personal and to do a little hand-caring," he said.

"The doctors like it because the administration does try to buy whatever we want."

The hospital is not equipped for the "terrible, god-awful things" such as neurosurgery or cancer treatment, he said. "It's more or less the non-spectacular medicine."

He said staff working conditions seemed better, and that some of the best nurses in town had transferred to Raleigh Community Hospital even though the salary was about the same.

Raleigh Community Hospital does take patients who are unable to pay, he said.

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