

Extra funding needed for housing

By DAN MORRISON
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Housing Authority appealed to the Town Council Monday for extra funds to maintain low-income housing in the area.

In a work session Monday night, the council discussed the possible absorption of the Housing Authority's functions by the council because of the authority's financial difficulties.

Following approval of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings tax bill, and facing the bleak prospect of the dismantling of the federal Housing and Urban Development as a cabinet office, the authority has been forced to seek financial aid from the town of Chapel Hill.

Since 1962, the authority has functioned as an independent body and solicited its own funds to pay rent and maintain low-income housing.

Last month, the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners requested a study be done on the prospect of the council absorbing the Housing Authority's jurisdiction, but council members could not agree Monday whether or not they would like to spend \$20,000 on a study that

might not offer any solutions. Council member David Pasquini suggested the council investigate the takeover itself before funding such a study.

Two possibilities for aiding the authority were discussed, but the council reached no definite decision.

One option was a PILOT plan, or payment in lieu of taxes, whereby, over a three-year period, the council would return to the authority the taxes they have paid since last year.

The plan would allocate \$18,000 per year for maintenance and repairs.

At present, \$11 million has been invested in the Housing Authority since 1967. In addition, it receives \$197,000 annually from HUD.

The Housing Authority has not received any modernization funds since 1984, and it is estimated that \$3,041,000 would be needed to restore all 312 units it operates.

Similar programs have been instituted in Raleigh and Sanford, according to Town Council reports.

Raleigh provided \$142,000 in PILOT funds for housing problems in 1982, and the town of Sanford gave \$50,000 in general revenue

sharing to its housing authority that same year.

A second option would make use of Community Development Funds, \$50,000 of which have not been earmarked for anything as of yet.

Council member R.D. Smith suggested internal reform, saying the town maintenance staff should do more work of its own on the low-income units rather than bidding for outside labor.

Some Chapel Hill tenants made their fears clear Monday night, favoring an independent Housing Authority rather than one under the direction of the Town Council.

"You've got these people scared to death (of being evicted)," Anilizabeth Young, a former public housing resident, told the council.

But Smith said the council did not intend to move any residents.

"It's just a managerial thing — whether the town will manage the Housing Authority or somebody else will do it," he said.

Maria Robertson, past president of the Chapel Hill Tenants Organization, said she felt the town had too many other projects to work with without taking on the Housing

Authority. "The town hasn't got the staff to visit with the tenants and deal with them sufficiently," she said.

In other business, council members discussed density bonuses for contractors and defined affordable housing for the Chapel Hill area.

Affordable housing should be priced between \$35,000 and \$70,000, the council established.

Under the density bonus program, contractors are provided with 35 percent more floor area and density to projects if they provide opportunities for affordable housing.

Since 1981, density bonuses have only applied to rental units, according to Nancy Wells, town clerk. Town Council is now debating whether or not to apply bonuses to other types of housing.

"We're wasting our time with this," said Smith. "Why are we beating a dead horse? It hasn't worked before."

An inclusionary program was suggested, whereby a developer would be forced to build a certain percentage of his project for affordable housing, usually 10 to 15 percent.

General Electric plans large layoff

By ROBERT KEEFE
Business Editor

General Electric Company announced Monday it would soon lay off hundreds of workers at its Research Triangle Park semi-conductor plant.

The layoff is due mainly to the merger of GE and RCA that took place several months ago, according to Jan Walker, communication specialist with the GE Microelectronics Center.

Walker said the cuts would be entirely across the board, with layoffs occurring in the manufacturing, management and support divisions of the company.

Although the exact number of employees being laid off will not be available until next week, Walker said it would be less than 300.

The GE plant employs around 700 people.

"The whole corporation is going through an assimilation process," said Walker. "As a result, we have had to make many adjustments, including the layoff."

Since the merger, GE/RCA has decided to move all internal marketing (marketing to companies within the GE/RCA corporation) to the Research Triangle plant, and all external marketing (marketing to companies outside the GE/RCA corporation) to a plant in Somerville, N.J., formerly owned by RCA.

The slumping semiconductor industry, which has caused the loss of thousands of jobs nationwide, was also an attributing factor in the GE layoff.

Semiconductors are small silicon chips used to store information in computers and other high-

tech products. Production is also being phased out at General Electric's only other semiconductor plant, located in Syracuse, N.Y.

RCA has three other semiconductor plants, which will be incorporated into the merger over the next several months.

Walker said she did not know if employment cuts would occur at the other GE/RCA plants.

Just down the road in Durham, things are on a much brighter side at North Carolina's only other semiconductor manufacturing plant.

According to Kazuo Watanabe, president of Mitsubishi Semiconductor America, there has been no decrease in sales at his plant; in fact, sales are up.

"I feel very, very sorry for the problems at GE," said Watanabe. "But we have had to deal with the same type of market."

Watanabe said production at Mitsubishi has almost doubled in the past year, and they are currently producing about three million chips a month at the plant.

He attributes Mitsubishi's success to good, in-house management and faithful employees.

GE/RCA produces semiconductors for the aerospace industry, the mobile radio/cellular phone industry, the medical and other industries.

Mitsubishi Semiconductor America, which is the Japanese-based corporation's only chip manufacturing plant, produces semiconductors for IBM, Northern Telecom and National Cash Register, among others.

Mitsubishi also has 10 other companies located in the United States, some that use the chips manufactured in Durham.

Handicap Student Service in need of aid

By TOM CAMP
Staff Writer

For most students, strolling through the Student Union between classes or visiting a friend in a nearby dormitory is done without thinking, but for senior Chris Work and others who are wheelchair-bound, such routine actions can present major obstacles.

"I remember when I was a freshman," said Work, an RTVMP major from Mooresville. "I had a class in a building that I could get into, but my class was upstairs, so I had to get a friend to carry me up."

Work has had two other classes in his four years in buildings that were not accessible to wheelchair students, but the biggest problem he sees on campus is the lack of ramps to the Student Union and the Student Stores.

"When I want to go in the Union," Work said, "I have to wait until

someone I know can help me in." Work also said he always gets a friend to buy his textbooks in the Student Stores, which he cannot enter.

Despite a lack of state funds going into handicap programs, the UNC Handicap Student Service has made efforts to help students like Work.

"In recent years, we have not received any money at all from the state. The money we have used has come from outside sources," said Laura Thomas, coordinator of the service. The service is hoping for some "barrier removal funds" from the state next year to finance projects for the mobility impaired.

The money would be well spent, Thomas said. "There's a lot more that I see that needs to be done," she said. "We need changes in elevators in about seven buildings and we need to make Caldwell Hall, Alumni Building and Murphey

accessible." More dorms should be made accessible too, she said.

"You have to balance the cost with the list of things you want done," she said. "An elevator in a three-story building could go for \$300,000."

All classes, programs and services must be accessible to handicapped students — mobility-impaired students are just one group — under Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Thomas said.

"The act says no university can discriminate against an otherwise qualified disabled person in any of its programs and services," Thomas said.

Inside

Elson Floyd, assistant dean of the General College.

The foreign language requirements have caused advisers the most frustration because they change almost every year, he said. Now students must fulfill one of the three different foreign language requirements depending on when they entered the University.

"I went to three advisers before I got a definite answer about whether I needed to take another foreign language credit," said junior Traci Earnhardt of Charlotte, an industrial relations major.

"I've had friends who had to go to summer school and did not graduate on time because their advisers didn't tell them they needed more foreign language," she said.

But administrators said the General College advising system is satisfactory. "You can't save every student out there from pushing the self-destruct button," Jicha said.

Earnhardt said a "satisfactory" advising system is not enough. "My adviser was good, but I was still always trying to make sure I'll graduate on time."

"I need more details," she said. "A lot of times they assume you know important things that most students, especially freshmen, just don't know."

Only about 30 percent of the students assigned to some advisers come in at times when they don't have to preregister, said Jack Wier, a General College adviser for about 10 years and associate director of student affairs for the School of Pharmacy.

if we did not offer in-patient care to the general student body, we would not have to offer it to the handicapped students, but since we do, we are required by law to."

According to the act, some dorms — not necessarily all — must be accessible to wheelchair-bound students, Thomas said. Some, because of narrow halls or many steps, are not easy to make accessible to wheelchairs. Others, like Old East and Old West, will never be changed because they are historic landmarks, she said.

"You see students who have problems or who are really conscientious and want to plan as thoroughly as possible," Wier said. "There are a lot of students you never see — some can take care of themselves, and for others it just means they aren't taking advantage of the system."

Jicha said one of the mistakes students make about the advising system is thinking advisers can tell them what they do best. "We can only suggest or advise, and tell you what the rules are," he said. "We're not psychiatrists or psychologists."

Faculty members who choose to be advisers are usually willing to work and enjoy talking to students, Jicha said. "We don't get people to do it for the money — they get about \$4,000 a year."

Junior Debbie Mitchell of Raleigh, an English education major, said she thought her adviser was "great."

"I didn't expect my adviser to do everything for me," she said. "If I had a question, he was there. A lot of freshmen want some adult to make up a schedule for them."

Besides creating perspective requirements, the revisions established the Department of General Education to oversee the curriculum. "Before, there was no faculty committee to review the curricu-

lum," said William Graves, associate dean of General Education. "We've made it more of a dynamic structure, so faculty and students know what's going on and what the new ideas are."

The Office of General Education makes course selections according to Faculty Council guidelines, and it makes sure high schools know how to prepare students to enter the University, Graves said. Also, the office has raised money to help North Carolina high schools reach the University's expectations, he said.

Cell said the General Education Office is crucial to the continuing development of the curriculum. But people need to understand the reasons behind any set of requirements to really benefit from them, she said.

She said the General College should improve the interaction among faculty and students, especially freshmen. "I'm concerned about thinking of ways in which — particularly for freshmen — we can break down the size of this institution."

"I'm looking at ways in the first year, whether through smaller classes or developing individual programs in the dormitories, to give freshman students a better experience," she said.

Cell said she had considered re-establishing small seminar courses for freshmen. Created in 1970, the seminars' attendance dwindled after about four years.

"(Providing freshman seminars) was something I wanted to do when I became a dean, but when I sat down and saw the logistics of it, I realized it wasn't possible with our present system," she said.

The Office of General Education shifted its emphasis to developing capstone courses, designed to top off a college education, Graves said.

"We offer 10 to 15 courses a semester with small sections — challenging courses which are like the seminars but not geared to freshmen, but juniors and seniors," he said.

In the last four years the General College has spent more time monitoring the progress of freshmen to decrease the number of dropouts, Floyd said.

But Graves said the success or failure of any curriculum or advising system depends on how students see the system.

"If you come here and take the view that you're going to be a journalism or business major and we've just set up barriers for you, then you probably won't get much out of the perspectives," he said.

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Campus Calendar

Wednesday

12 noon The Institute of Latin American Studies announces a talk by Michael Alt-filisch on "Peru — Recent Events from Lurigancho to the FMI." Bring a brown bag lunch to the Union.

Career Planning and Placement Services is sponsoring a Career Day in Great Hall until 5 p.m.

12:30 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services is holding an orientation workshop in 306 Hanes.

2 p.m. The Preident/Premed Office is holding an Optometry Career Conference at the Elliott University Center, UNC at Greensboro. For information, come by 201D Steele.

3 p.m. Students for David Price for Congress will meet in the South Gallery Meeting Room of the Union.

4 p.m. The Christian Science College Organization will meet in the Gallery Meeting Room of the Union.

4:30 p.m. The UNC Association of College Entrepreneurs will meet in 226 Union. This will follow the 3 p.m. lecture by David Thomas, founder of Wendy's, in Carroll Hall.

5 p.m. The Association of Inter-

national Students will meet in 208-09 Union for information on party and camping trip.

5:30 p.m. Newman-The Catholic Student Center welcomes all to its student night/dinner at 218 Pittsboro St. Call 929-3730 for information.

6 p.m. The Lutheran Campus Ministry will hold its weekly meal with the Agape Feast Service in the Campus Center. Cost for the meal is \$1.50.

6:15 p.m. The Grievance Task Force of the Student Government will meet in 218 Union.

7 p.m. AIESEC will meet in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge. Officers will meet at 7:30.


Career Planning and Placement Services offers a presentation by West-vaco Co. in the Carolina Room at the Carolina Inn.

7:30 p.m. CHIMERA, the UNC fantasy and science fiction club, will meet "planet-builder" Dr. Sheridan Simon in the Union.

UNC Ski Club will hold its organizational meeting in 209 Manning Hall.

10 p.m. STV presents "Campus Profile" and "This Is It!" at Pizza Hut and on Village Cable Channel 11.

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