

Chapel Hill candidates

Campaigns focus on growth issues

Charles Balan

By REBECCA NESBIT and NICKI WEISENSEE
Staff Writers

There are few differences between the campaign platforms presented by 12 candidates for Chapel Hill Town Council and mayoral positions,

except that the two UNC students seeking council seats are offering a fresh perspective to town government.

The pro-growth versus pro-village rift differentiates the candidates running for office in the Nov. 3

elections, but their campaigns have a consensual approach to University-town relations.

More than 1,300 students registered to vote this fall in the town elections. They will choose among three candidates running for the

mayoral position and nine candidates running for the four council positions.

The mayor serves a four-year term, and the council members serve two-year terms.

Mayor Julie Andresen

Julie Andresen, a town council member for the past two years, said she opposes the proposed Pittsboro Street Extension, a south-bound one-way road that would run through Little Fraternity Court and merge with Airport Road. Andresen said she opposes the extension because one-way streets and wide boulevards that pass through the center of town only cause damage.

Before taking a stand on the current noise ordinance, Andresen said she wants to hear recommendations from the Noise Ordinance Revision Subcommittee. The committee was established in April to review the effectiveness of the ordinance and make recommendations for modifications.

"We do need a noise ordinance, but we could probably make it better," Andresen said. "Not louder music and longer hours, but if we could have a noise zone strictly for the campus, that would be better."

The mayor must meet regularly with campus administrators to improve University-town relations, Andresen said.

"As the University grows, it must grow in a way that the town can manage," she said.

Andresen also supports the entertainment ticket tax on non-sporting facilities seating more than 15,000 people as an alternative to increasing property taxes.

She said she prefers park-and-ride lots located on the outskirts of town and serviced by buses as an effective solution to the town's traffic congestion problems. She also recommends building parking decks.



Andresen opposes Rosemary Square, the \$33 million retail, hotel and parking project proposed for the intersection of Rosemary and Henderson streets.

"I oppose it because of its tremendous size and because of the traffic it will bring in," she said. "I wasn't on the council when it was voted on, but unless somebody changes their mind, it will have to proceed."

The town council first endorsed the project in a vote more than two years ago. Andresen voted against the project in a second council vote last spring that narrowly upheld the approval.

Andresen worked with the Alliance of Neighborhoods and helped bring attention to defects in the 1981 zoning ordinance.

Jonathan Howes

Jonathan Howes, director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at UNC, said he opposes a six-lane Pittsboro Street Extension.

He said the town should review problems in the north-south traffic flow to alleviate congestion.

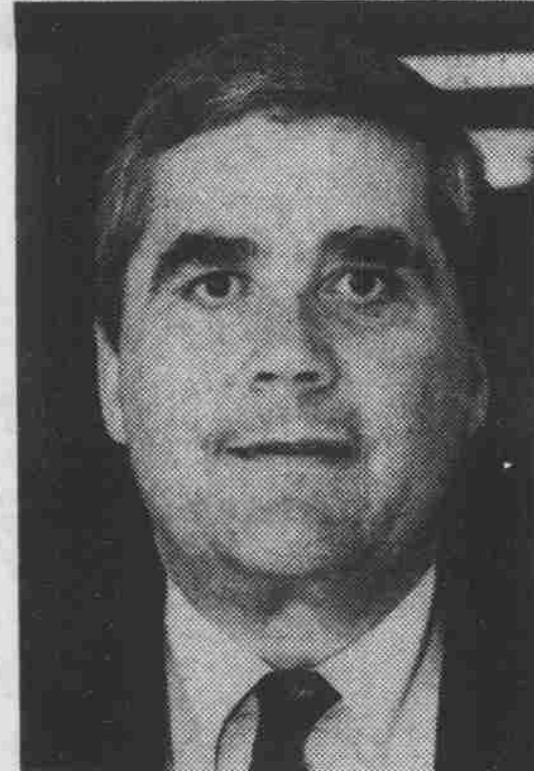
Howes is in favor of increasing the decibel level allowed by the noise ordinance and creating a campus zone where higher noise levels are permitted.

A permanent joint University-town committee would improve relations by addressing UNC-related development issues, Howes said. The temporary joint committee was appointed in July to find a land-use plan that both the town and the University can agree upon.

Howes also supports the entertainment ticket tax. "I favor (taxing) for all events," he said. "Even athletic events."

He recommended two ways to alleviate traffic congestion problems. "First, we need an adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, and we need to couple that with a system of impact fees," he said. "Synchronized traffic lights would help, too."

The Public Facilities Ordinance would limit future town development to a level that the public facilities,



such as roads and utilities, could support.

Howes said he supports the Chapel Hill Downtown Committee, which is planning for future development. He also favors the Rosemary Square project.

"Rosemary Square will have to run its course, and I favor its completion," he said.

Howes has served on the town council since 1975.

David Lineberger

David Lineberger said he opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension because it would generate a tremendous amount of traffic that would travel roads in nearby neighborhoods.

Amplified noise is fine if nearby property owners do not object, but guidelines must be drawn, said Lineberger, who was a band member when he was in college.

"Certainly I have to support having a good time, but we have to protect the citizens," he said.

Lineberger said University-town relations are important for the future of Chapel Hill, and he would like the current joint committee to continue working to improve communication.

"It is vitally important that the committee be in place to work out problems of the University's expansion and the town's ability to accommodate that expansion, and vice-versa," he said.

Lineberger said he opposes the construction of large buildings downtown because they would reduce the academic atmosphere. "UNC is a beautiful campus, and I would like to retain the academic aura that surrounds us," he said.

He said he supports an entertainment ticket tax that would exempt students. The town needs tax money to pay for overtime work put in for these events by city workers, such as police officers and sanitation employees, he said.

"As a homeowner, I feel a bit put



upon if we have to pay overtime for sanitation people to monitor the Smith Center," he said.

The town should synchronize stop lights to alleviate traffic congestion, he said.

Traffic congestion is a primary reason Lineberger said he opposes the Rosemary Square project.

"It would throw in a lot of additional traffic," Lineberger said. "If I was elected mayor and the developers did not come up with all of the requirements by the deadline, March 3, I would vote not to expand."

Lineberger was a member of the Kingstree, S.C., town council for eight years and is now retired.

Council Nancy Preston

Incumbent town council member Nancy Preston opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension because she said it will harm fraternities and neighborhoods in its path and will be dangerous to pedestrians.

Preston said she is pleased that students and town residents are working together to reach a compromise on the noise ordinance. She said she will not draw conclusions about the ordinance until the committee completes the study. At that time, the town council will probably heed the committee's recommendations, she said.

Cooperation between the town and University is important for good relations, she said. "I think the joint University-town committee is a real important first step in establishing a real dialogue between the University and the town," Preston said.

Preston supports an entertainment ticket tax. "I think it's a good idea because if you're spending \$10 to \$15 on entertainment, 50 cents is not that crucial," she said. "It would go a long way toward helping the town pay for extra services it provides when people come into town for these events."

To alleviate traffic congestion, Preston said the town should synchronize traffic signals. "There were bond issues passed last year, and one bond was set aside to coordinate traffic signals," she said.



The town should also be careful when approving construction to ensure that facilities such as roads are updated to accommodate increased traffic, she said.

Preston said that because town officials have committed the town to the Rosemary Square project, they cannot cancel the contract with the developers unless they are willing to spend money on litigation.

Preston has been a town council member since 1983. Before that, she was a volunteer for downtown preservation and a registrar in the East Franklin precinct.

UNC junior Charles Balan said he opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension because it is not a good solution to the town's transportation problems, and it will upset Little and Big Fraternity courts.

"Who will want to have a party in Big Frat Court if there are roads going right through it?" he said.

One-way streets would not be an effective solution, according to Balan, who said he has never seen them work successfully.

As a member of the Noise Ordinance Subcommittee, Balan said he is working to increase the decibel level and the hours that amplified music can be played.

"The students and the citizens need to be informed on what is allowed," he said.

Balan said a Student Congress member with a town council position could make an enormous difference in resolving differences between the town and University.

"Without this University, Chapel Hill would be radically different and would not be as great and wonderful as it is," he said. "We need to work with them and find reasonable agreements."

The majority of residents and students should support a development before the town council approves construction, Balan said.

He said the University already finances services that the town claims it would raise money for with the entertainment ticket tax.

"The University and the students in their tuition pay for the security, the police and the clean-up services that the town says it needs money for," he said.

But the town pays these employees



overtime wages later in the pay period because of the extra hours they worked for big events.

Park-and-ride lots and bicycle paths would improve traffic congestion problems, Balan said.

"This will bring the people downtown, but not the cars and traffic," he said. "We need a nice transit system that meets the needs of the town."

As an opponent of the Rosemary Square project as it is planned, Balan said the town should break its contract with the developers.

"The town should bite the bullet and take the chance of losing some money because the majority of residents and students are against the condos and hotels," he said.

Balan worked on Bill Cobey's 1984 congressional campaign and was a poll tender.

Rob Friedman

UNC senior Rob Friedman said he opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension because students do not want it. It would create problems for sororities, fraternities and the Northside neighborhood, he said.

"There has to be better ways to lessen traffic than tearing down fraternity houses and taking people's property," he said.

Friedman said the noise ordinance is too restrictive as it is now written. He said the noise ordinance is a good example of how the town overlooks student opinion in its decision-making.

"The town shouldn't overlook student opinion," Friedman said. "The town is willing to take a lot of things that the University gives to it, but (is not) willing to give back. The students don't ask for much, and they shouldn't get everything they want, but they deserve to be treated with respect."

University-town relations could be improved by having a student on the town council, Friedman said. "That way the townspeople can work together on issues, and therefore get a better understanding of how everything works," he said.

Friedman said downtown growth decisions should be made by permanent residents and students, who make up a large portion of the population.

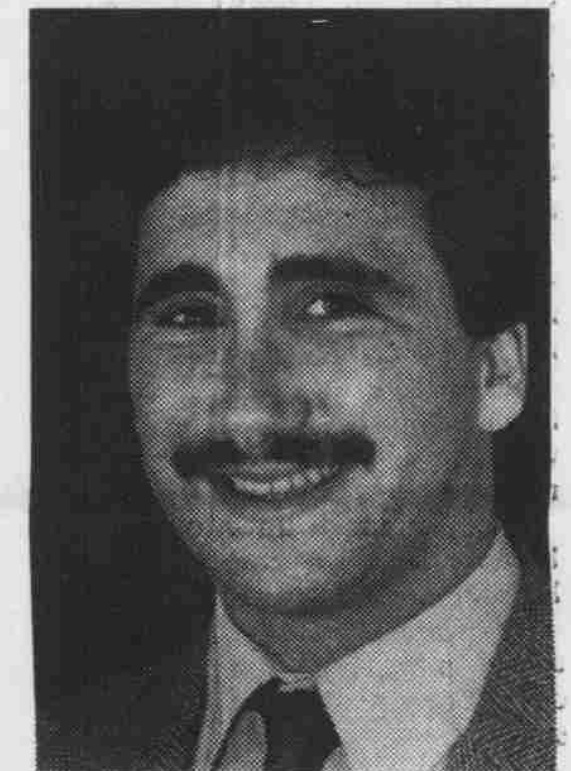
"If the majority of the citizens want it, then do it," he said. "If they don't, then don't."

Friedman said he opposes the entertainment ticket tax because it is a tax on young people, particularly students.

"If mostly senior citizens went to these events, then I don't think there would be a tax," he said.

He suggested operating more mass transit park-and-ride lots and bicycle paths to alleviate traffic congestion problems. "The town will benefit in the long run," he said.

Friedman opposes the Rosemary



Square development because he said most residents do not want it built at the intersection of Rosemary and Henderson streets.

"The town should not build things that the townspeople don't want," he said. "The town shouldn't be a dictative one, but one that is responsive to the people's needs."

Because the town is already involved in a contract with the developers — one that would probably cost the town over \$2 million to break — Friedman said the town should continue with its commitment.

"The town should find out whether the townspeople are willing to pay the money it will cost to pull out, and if the residents are willing, then we should break the contract; and if they are not willing, then we should build Rosemary Square."

Friedman is speaker of Student Congress and hopes to enroll in the UNC law school next year. He has interned with Long Island, N.Y., congressmen and worked for 12 congressional, senatorial and presidential campaigns.

WARNING SIGNS OF KIDNEY DISEASE

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| Burning or difficulty during urination | Puffiness around eyes, swelling of hands and feet, especially in children | More frequent urination, particularly at night | Pain in small of back just below the ribs (not aggravated by movement) |
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The second Blue-White game will be played at 7:30 PM on Saturday evening, November 14 in Carmichael Auditorium (Nostalgia Night in Carmichael).

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS:

Present your student ID and athletic pass at the Smith Center Box office between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Students may also purchase guest tickets for \$5.00 in addition to their complimentary student ticket.

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