

# Chapel Hill candidates

## Joe Herzenberg

Joe Herzenberg, who is an advocate of neighborhood preservation, said he opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension. "I oppose it for about every reason in the books," he said. "One-way streets, in general, in the downtown area are not good."

Herzenberg cited the one-way street system in downtown Durham as a confusing maze of traffic that he does not want in Chapel Hill.

"Another major thoroughfare only 100 yards to the west of Columbia (Street) will threaten the pedestrian ambience which we want to encourage in Chapel Hill," he said. "Despite what the technocrats say about it, the more roads you build, the more you encourage the traffic."

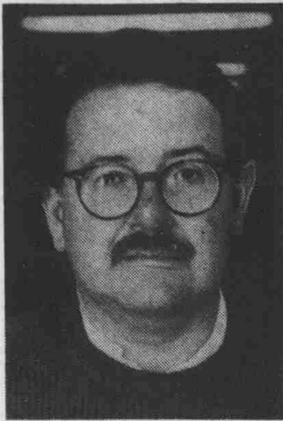
Herzenberg, who authored the noise ordinance approved by the town in February, said he does not believe anybody should have the right to disturb others.

"I would like to see how the current (ordinance) works and take recommendations from the committee that is working on it before any more action is made," he said.

He said University-town relations are important and he supports a commission to improve communication. "A permanent commission with the students would be an even better idea," Herzenberg said.

Herzenberg lives three blocks from downtown and said he is anxious to protect neighborhoods. He is especially concerned about development on the edge of downtown, he said.

He said he supports an entertain-



ment ticket tax. "It's not going to be a burden on anybody, and it's a way of making the whole tax system work," he said.

Herzenberg said the town should try a system of park-and-ride lots to improve traffic congestion problems. "Transportation such as bus shuttles, going more frequently into town, could offer a solution to traffic congestion," he said.

He opposes the Rosemary Square project because it is too large, he said. "There is not enough parking for the scale of the project," he said.

Herzenberg was a member of the town council from 1979 to 1981. He has also worked with student registration drives on campus.

## Bill Thorpe

Incumbent council member Bill Thorpe said he opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension. "I am against it and I voted against it," Thorpe said. "It's just not a good idea and it will bring in a lot of traffic."

Thorpe said he is undecided about the noise ordinance. He will wait for a recommendation from the Noise Ordinance Revision Subcommittee members before taking a stand on amplified noise.

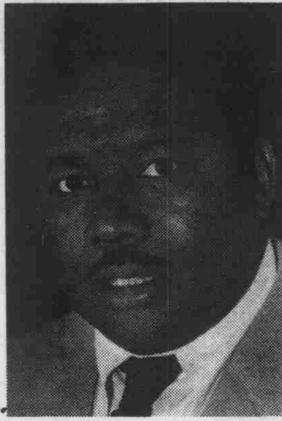
"The committee contains a very diverse group of people and we need to find out what each of the representatives of that group says," Thorpe said.

University-town relations need improvement, Thorpe said. "The University is a part of the community too," he said. "We wouldn't be here if it weren't for the University. The administration, students and the town need to meet once a month."

Thorpe said he supports an entertainment ticket tax if students could be exempted. "Students should have a lesser price and non-students should have a greater price," he said.

He had recommended that students who present valid UNC identifications be exempted from the ticket tax.

Park-and-ride lots would be an effective solution to traffic congestion, Thorpe said. "That would keep Chapel Hill a pedestrian-oriented area," he said.



Thorpe said he supports the Rosemary Square project. "We went into it with good faith and I hope to continue along those lines."

He has served on the town council for a total of eight years and was elected mayor pro-tem in 1985. He served on the Community Development Task Force and the Transportation Advisory Board, was president of the Black Elected Officials of North Carolina and now serves on the Board of Directors of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

## Bob Varley

Bob Varley said he supports the Pittsboro Street Extension, because it is part of the town's thoroughfare plan. "It's been studied and studied by the University and the town," he said.

He also opposes a noise ordinance in Chapel Hill, especially after sporting events and other special occasions. "I don't think it's essential in a college town," Varley said. "To try to curb noise, particularly on the weekends, is fruitless."

He said he is not concerned about University-town relations, because he is satisfied with them as they have been for years.

Varley said he opposes the entertainment ticket tax.

"Traffic congestion is an ever-present problem, too, and until we have a good Thoroughfare Plan that will alleviate it, it will remain a problem," he said. "We might even have to make East Franklin and Rosemary streets one-way to help."

He estimated that this could happen in the next three to four years. Varley said he opposes Rosemary Square because he was one of many downtown merchants who put up money in the 1950s to purchase the property for use as a parking lot. The merchants then turned the property over to the town to collect revenue for the parking. The money received



went to pay off bonds that were issued to finance the property and it was paid for within a five-year period, he said.

"It was not purchased to put up a hotel," Varley said. "With the (councils) changing constantly over the years, many members who were new to the community were not aware of the historical importance."

Varley served on the Chapel Hill Board of Alderman from 1966 to 1969.

## Cassandra Sloop

Cassandra Sloop said she opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension because it would generate more traffic congestion. "Because it would be one-way, it would cause even more traffic problems," she said.

Sloop said she supports the current noise ordinance, but would not object to extending hours for amplified noise during special occasions.

"I understand that college people want to have a good time, but I do not think that it should override the rights of others," she said.

Sloop said the joint University-town committee should continue work after the land-use plan is resolved.

Sloop supports downtown growth because she said construction will help preserve downtown Chapel Hill.

"Downtown needs to stay viable and keep busing there so Chapel Hill does not become a dead downtown," she said.

Sloop said she supports the entertainment ticket tax because it will tax the people who come from other towns and create the excess trash and traffic, but do not pay to clean up after the event.

"An additional fee is not going to make any difference to the person," she said.

Traffic congestion is only a prob-



lem at peak hours of the day when people are trying to commute to and from work, Sloop said. "To build roads just for those hours is not sensible to me," she said.

Rosemary Square should proceed as planned, she said. "Like I said before, Chapel Hill's going to become dead if we don't do something to keep it busy," she said.

Sloop was a volunteer on the Chapel Hill Appearance Commissions for about four years.

## James Wallace

James Wallace, now serving as mayor, said he does not support the Pittsboro Street Extension. "I oppose the Pittsboro Street Extension and will not seek money for it," Wallace said. "If it ever got started, it would cost a fortune to buy the land and it would be accomplished at the expense of the Northside community."

He said he is waiting for the conclusions of the Noise Ordinance Revision Subcommittee study before he takes a stand on amplified noise.

Wallace said he thinks University-town relations are doing well now. "The joint University-town committee is exploring in-depth a whole variety of issues that affect both the town and the University," he said. "I think relations are in excellent shape and will continue that way."

Wallace said it is unlikely that the town will levy an entertainment ticket tax because University administrators would oppose it and the N.C. General Assembly would have to approve it first.

"I think the General Assembly would strike it down," he said.

Wallace said traffic congestion could be alleviated by synchronizing the traffic lights and building park-and-ride lots.

Rosemary Square is another issue that has always concerned Wallace.

"I continue to oppose Rosemary



Square because it will generate more traffic congestion," he said. "What we need there is a very good-looking parking facility."

Wallace has been involved in Chapel Hill politics since 1960, when he was appointed to the Chapel Hill Planning Board. He served on the board until 1964, and then again from 1970 to 1971.

Wallace was on the town council from 1971 to 1972, 1975 to 1979 and 1980 to 1983. He was elected mayor in 1985.

## Roosevelt Wilkerson

Roosevelt Wilkerson said he opposes the Pittsboro Street Extension because it would harm the Northside community, where he lives. He said the extension would also threaten pedestrians.

"I understand why (the extension is) in the Thoroughfare Plan," he said, "but I still think it's wrong."

Wilkerson supports changes in the noise ordinance because he said it is inadequate and ineffectively written.

The joint University-town committee is a good step toward improving University-town relations, Wilkerson said. "Maybe there needs to be a standing committee to deal with issues affecting the University and the town," he said.

Wilkerson said he is not concerned about the entertainment ticket tax because it will probably never be approved.

Traffic congestion could be alleviated by park-and-ride lots, Wilkerson said.

"I also think we need to put fire on the (N.C. Department of Transportation) to get synchronized traffic signals," he said. "The DOT has been dragging its feet."



Rosemary Square is another issue that Wilkerson said is beyond debating.

"The council has spoken to it legally and the town has an obligation to move forth," he said.

Wilkerson has been chairman of the South Orange Black Caucus for the past three years.

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