

A Chilean exile's dream of democracy

By JACKIE DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

As the lights went down in 100 Hamilton Hall Thursday night, many people were startled to see a graphic 60 Minutes news segment called "Los Quemados" or "The Burned Ones."

The segment focused mainly on the story of two Chilean youths who were beaten and set on fire by a government military patrol in 1986. One of the youths, Rodrigo Rojas de Negri, died four days after the incident.

His mother, Chilean exile Veronica de Negri, spoke about youth and human rights to a 300-member audience as part of Campus Y's Human Rights Week '87.

The news clip showed the horror in which the Chilean people live under the oppressive rule of Gen. Augusto

Pinochet, dictator of Chile.

"You can avoid this kind of crime, this kind of suffering," de Negri told the audience after the segment. "You can do a lot to stop this."

She stressed how important it is for young people to know what is going on in their countries, as well as in other countries. "You are important to me and to the future of your country," she told the group.

"Be aware of what is happening in the world around you," she said. "Be a part of making democracy better."

She said the horror the audience had just seen was not "Friday the 13th" but real life in Chile. What happened to her son was not an isolated incident. Even at this moment, she said, many Chilean

youths are disappearing or being killed.

"I thought I was very lucky and that I would never have to leave my country," de Negri said. "I took for granted the democracy that was so precious to me. I thought it would last forever. I was wrong. That democracy ended for me on Sept. 11, 1973. That day is very clear to me."

De Negri said she is not anti-American. However, she blames American intervention for the end of the democratic government in Chile in 1973.

De Negri came to the United States in 1977, after a period of suffering at the hands of the Chilean government.

"It is a crime to be a young woman

or a young man in Chile," she said. "It is a crime to have a dream of democracy."

De Negri urged the people of the United States to leave Chile alone. "Let us (the Chilean people) decide what the future of our country will be. We don't need more intervention. Intervention has cost many thousands of lives. It has cost us the future of our country."

De Negri told the audience that as citizens of North Carolina they should demand that Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., explain his views on foreign policy.

"Senator Helms is a senator of the criminal government of Pinochet, not a senator of North Carolina," she said.

Changes suggested for thoroughfare plan

By LEIGH ANN MCDONALD
Assistant City Editor

The Joint University-Town committee passed six recommendations for amendments to the Chapel Hill Thoroughfare Plan Thursday.

Among the recommendations, the committee recognized that a three-lane Pittsboro Street may be needed in the future and allowed for this widening, said John Sanders, committee chairman.

The committee voted, 8-2, to keep Pittsboro Street inside its right-of-way, which is state-owned property on both sides, allowing for expansion without purchasing private property.

Transportation planner John Gardner said there is adequate right-of-way on both sides of Pittsboro Street to permit widening the road to three lanes.

Committee members Eric Munson and Richard Cole voted against the recommendation.

Included in this recommendation,

the committee voted to keep South Columbia Street open.

The committee also voted, 9-1, to recommend that the mayor and chancellor determine the costs and benefits of park-and-ride lots, proposed for construction on the edges of Chapel Hill and Carrboro and serviced by public buses.

Munson voted against the recommendation.

Committee member Arthur Hurow said the park-and-ride lots should be fast and inexpensive to make them attractive to riders.

"What you are talking about is people who have a choice whether to ride a bus or car," Gardner said. "You can either force them to ride the bus, or you can make the bus more attractive."

The bus could be equipped with signals that change traffic lights so the bus would never have to stop at a red light, Gardner said. "Charlotte has this system. This would make it

faster for people than riding in their cars."

Other recommendations that will be submitted to the mayor and chancellor include:

- Locating comparable housing for students in Odum Village before destroying the units for road construction. After the issue is resolved, Manning Drive should be relocated along a route south of its present route.
- Re-routing the majority of traffic

carried by Ridge Road to a new two-lane road beginning on Manning Drive and running northward to join Ridge Road northeast of Boshamer Baseball Stadium.

- Removing the current traffic hazards at the intersection of Boundary and Country Club Roads.
- Evaluating the effects of closing Cameron Avenue in front of the South Building by conducting a user survey and a trial period of closure during the day.

University asks town council to rezone one-acre piece of land near Smith Center

By LAURA DIGIANO
Staff Writer

The University asked the Chapel Hill Town Council Wednesday to rezone a one-acre tract of land behind

the Smith Center for development purposes.

The tract of University-owned property was one of 22 areas the town council considered for rezoning at the public hearing.

Roger Waldon, Chapel Hill planning director, speculated that the land might be used for parking spaces. Under the current residential zoning, parking spaces are not permitted.

"One serious possibility is that this land will be used for Smith Center parking," Waldon said.

Town Planning Committee chairman Alan Rimer said University access to Mason Farm Road, a residential road running behind the Smith Center, is a key element to the rezoning decision. Town Manager David Taylor said the special-use permit now held by the University

prohibits access to Mason Farm Road.

"The council grants those permits and can amend them if need be," he said.

The committee recommended rezoning the property with the stipulation that University access still be denied, he said.

Traffic would not be permitted to feed into Mason Farm Road if the University built parking spaces, but would be routed onto Manning Drive.

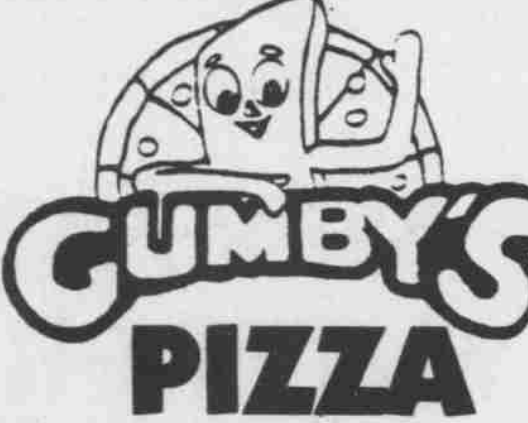
"We don't feel the University should have that right," Rimer said. Council member R.D. Smith said the council should not assume that the University would not access Mason Farm Road.

"The University is considering the relocation of Manning Drive to touch on Mason Farm Road, so let's not be too sure," Smith said. "Because of the uncertainty of the relocation of Manning Drive, I don't believe this council should consider rezoning."

The council will vote on the 22 proposed zoning changes in January.

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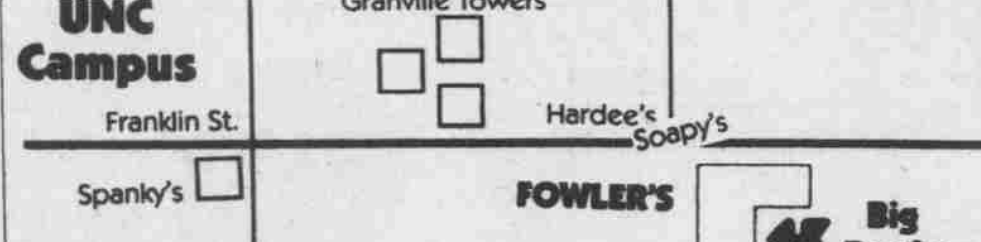
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