

Chapel Hill Town Council reschedules decisions

Park-and-ride lot, Rosemary Square on hold Future of neon sign ordinance uncertain

By TOM PARKS
Staff Writer
The Chapel Hill Town Council delayed its decision Monday to permit the town to build a park-and-ride lot because of concerns about effects on a nearby subdivision.
Council member Jim Wallace said the lot would "undermine" the Finley Forest development, the adjacent neighborhood.
"I think we should redouble our efforts to find another location."
The town had proposed building a 512-space lot on UNC property near N.C. 54 east of Chapel Hill. The lot's access would be from Laurel Hill Parkway, a road that will connect N.C. 54 to the University's Continuing Education center.
Council member David Godschalk said the proposed 100-foot buffer between Finley Forest and the park-and-ride lot was not sufficient.
"I think we need as much buffer as we can get as long as the space is available to us."
The lot would be built on University property, and Chapel Hill would lease the property and run the lot,

Town Planner Roger Waldon said. The lease would be for 10 years and would be renewable.
Wallace said the 10-year lease was much too short, and the town should look into obtaining at least a 30-year lease.
The University is also considering building studios and office space for WUNC-FM and an indoor tennis facility along Laurel Hill Parkway, according to a memo from Town Manager David Taylor to the mayor and council.
The proposed park-and-ride lot is the first of four lots proposed by the town to help alleviate parking problems downtown and encourage mass transit use, according to a March memo from Taylor to the council.
"It (the park-and-ride lot) is not going to by itself solve our traffic problems, but we believe it is one component of what we need to do," Town Planner Roger Waldon said.
In other business, the council tentatively rescheduled a report on the proposed Rosemary Square development for a future council meeting.

Jim Adams, of Algernon Blair Inc., was expected to give the report, but could not come to Chapel Hill because of a "business emergency," according to a representative of the Rosemary Square developers at the meeting. Algernon Blair Inc. is a construction and development firm involved in the proposed development.
Mayor Jonathan Howes said the council would wait until Adams could give the report because Adams' input appeared to be important to the report.
Jack Tomkovick, the owner of Gold Connection, said downtown Chapel Hill had an urgent need for more parking, and Rosemary Square's proposed parking deck would help alleviate this problem.
Nothing has been done over the past six to seven years since the development was proposed, Tomkovick said.
"We need a parking deck and we need it yesterday. Rosemary Square does appear dead in the road, and it is starting to smell like a dead possum. Only in Chapel Hill."

By BLAKE DICKINSON
Staff Writer
The Chapel Hill Town Council decided Monday to refer a decision on the town's development ordinance regarding neon signs to the town manager.
Expressing the opinion of a majority of council members, David Pasquini moved for the referral after 25 minutes of consideration of the points of three alternative ordinances.
"I tend to think that we should not take a deliberate action tonight. I'm not sure when we should take a deliberate action."
A factor that influenced the council's decision was a lack of an option that would allow neon signs outside of the downtown districts or allow the marquee on The Varsity and The Carolina Theatres to remain.
"Are you suggesting that the sign for the Flying Burrito must go, while any sign downtown could stay?" Mayor Jonathan Howes asked Town Planner Roger Waldon, who was presenting the various proposals.
"Yes," Waldon said.
Council member Julie Andresen

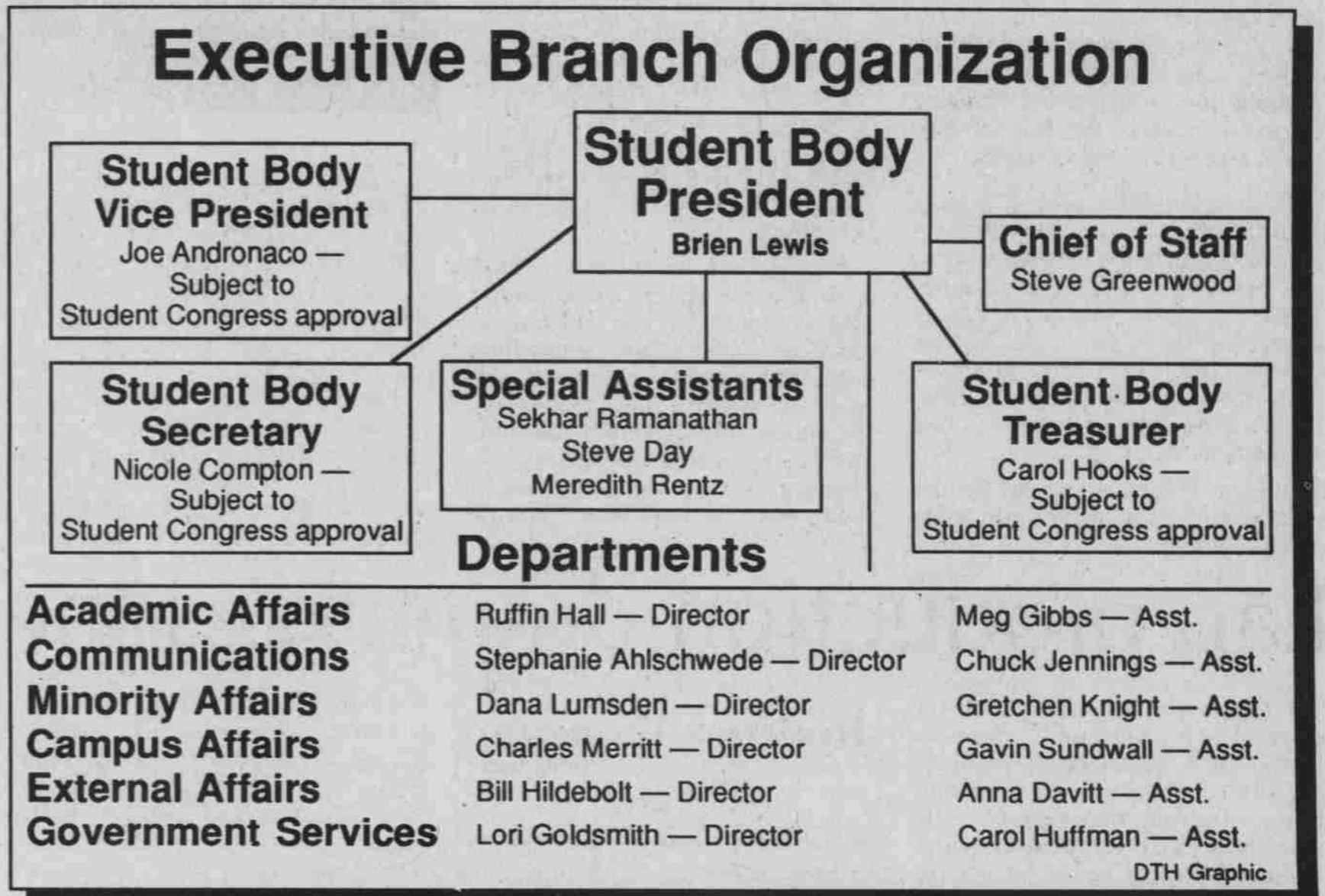
expressed support for the prolonged debate on neon signs that began in late 1988 when the town council first discussed the issue.
"I don't think this is all 'much ado about nothing.' I think this is what makes life in Chapel Hill interesting."
The proposed ordinance, favored by several town council members, would allow one neon sign per business in the town center districts, limit the neon sign area to 2 square feet, permit an "Open" sign and make minor changes to the development ordinance's language prohibiting neon.
Neon signs on interior walls, such as those in Lenoir Hall, could present a problem for building inspectors checking for illegal or nonconforming signs, Waldon said.
If the neon could be seen from a public right of way and was designed to call attention to the premises, it would be considered a sign, he said. If the neon were for decoration or intended to provide information for patrons already inside, it would not be considered a sign.
"There are clearly some uses that

would require a judgment call," Waldon said.
The concerns raised by Howes and Andresen about extending the use of neon outside of the town center districts and preserving the neon marquee of movie theaters exposed the weaknesses in the proposal that the town council did not wish to attempt to address in the present meeting.
Howes said other town councils often tried to amend and make ordinances during council meetings, but these attempts often failed.
The council members did express support for some form of qualitative review to be included in the ordinance they finally approve, but Waldon said the process to finalize those guidelines could take 12 to 16 months.
Until the town council adopts an amended ordinance on neon signs, council member Jim Wallace said the present ordinance should be enforced, but merchants with offending signs should be allowed to continue to hang their neon signs as long as the signs were not lit.

New system to simplify executive branch committee processes

By JASON KELLY
Staff Writer
Student Body President Brian Lewis has restructured the student government executive branch committee system to make it more cohesive and productive, he said Monday.
The new structure will include three special assistants who take care of day-to-day tasks, six departmental directors in charge of general areas such as academic affairs and a chief of staff to serve as the overall coordinator. Standard offices such as treasurer will remain unchanged.
"It will be a more informed government," Lewis said. "The branches will know what each other is doing. The new structure will be easier and more cohesive. It's going to be more student government than just a SBP with many assistants."
"The old system was immobile when the SBP was out of the office. With over 30 committees, there could rarely be a meeting of the executive branch. You could never get 30 people to show up every week for a cabinet meeting."
Stephanie Ahl Schwede, Lewis' director of communications, said the new structure would be more elastic.

"The new structure provides room for growth and new projects because it doesn't have the rigid committee setup of (former Student Body President Kevin) Martin's administration," she said.
"Committees of the old system each addressed a specific issue," she said. "We have directors to take care of general areas, like minority affairs or campus affairs, who would then delegate projects. They're not limited to projects which already exist."
Lewis said he derived his new structure from the administration of 1978-79 Student Body President Jimmie Phillips. "I saw a flow chart of the Phillips administration in the Coates book ('The Story of Student Government in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,' by Albert and Gladys Coates), and I thought the reason they have a chart is it must work well, so I adapted it to present needs," he said.
The structure of the executive branch had been the same for the last three years, Lewis said, and keeping track of the old system was very hard.
Steve Greenwood, Lewis' chief of staff, said the new structure would allow Lewis to delegate tasks better. "The SBP doesn't have the time to



Campus Y addresses problem of homeless

By SHERRY WATERS
Staff Writer
In an attempt to get students involved and aware of the problem with the homeless in the community, the Campus Y has created the Student Homeless Outreach Coalition (SHOC) committee, Campus Y officials said Friday.
SHOC, chaired by junior Trey Loughran and freshman Richie Harrill, both from Charleston, S.C., was formed last month, and the committee is now concentrating on coordinating student volunteers on campus. "SHOC's main goal is to raise consciousness and awareness on campus and throughout the community," Loughran said.
Tony Deifell, co-president of the Campus Y, said the Campus Y is very concerned with issues such as the

homeless. "Homeless people is a major issue that is not being addressed by many students on campus, so SHOC is basically concerned with getting people involved with this issue," Deifell said.
Loughran said that one of the things the committee is working on now is interacting with the Inter-Faith Council Community Shelter. The committee is working as a liaison between the shelter and students who are interested in helping out with the shelter, he said.
"It is one thing to read about the problem of homeless people, but it is a totally different thing to experience what the problem really is from first-hand experience," Loughran said. As a committee, they hope to learn more about the question of homelessness and reach out to the

campus with information they have gotten, he said.
SHOC is trying to raise about \$125,000 for the Inter-Faith Council Community Shelter, Campus Y officials said. The committee is working on several projects to raise the money. Loughran said the committee plans to work on a benefit concert to raise money and awareness.
Orange County has an estimated 400 homeless people, and nearly 3 million people in the United States are without permanent shelter today, said Deifell. "If we find just one person without shelter in our community, then it proposes an issue that needs to be addressed."
Last year the Inter-Faith Council Community Shelter housed about 281 homeless people, officials said

CGLA schedules events to promote awareness

By SIMONE PAM
Staff Writer
The Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association (CGLA) will sponsor several events, including Blue Jeans Day, as a part of the 11th annual CGLA Awareness Week April 9-15, CGLA officials said Monday.
The purpose of CGLA Awareness Week is to promote awareness of the gay and lesbian community, said Craig Melchert, faculty adviser to the CGLA. The week's events will remind the community that gays and lesbians are a part of the University and are fellow students, he said.
Attitudes toward homosexuals on campus are less of an issue now than they were last year, but CGLA officials hope Awareness Week will alleviate some of the questions, misconceptions and discrimination that concern gay men and lesbians, said Patrick Lamerson, co-chairman of the CGLA.
Blue Jeans Day, scheduled for Friday, is a sign of solidarity for gay men and lesbians, Lamerson said. This year is the first time the CGLA has asked supporters outside the organization to wear blue jeans as well, he said.
"Everyone who wears blue jeans doesn't have to be gay or a lesbian," he said.
Melchert said: "One of the

Service to remember student killed in crash

From staff reports
A memorial service for Chad Overcash, the student who was killed March 23, will be held today at 8 p.m. in Gerrard Hall.
Springfest

from page 1
More than 100 people came to Springfest to see the first band, and about 60 people were there when HRC government officials decided to cancel the event, Seufert said. Last year about 1,000 people had arrived at Springfest by the end of the first band, he said.
"A lot of people didn't show up because of rain, but those who did were disappointed that it (Springfest) was canceled."

Student office appointees up for confirmation tonight

From staff reports
The Rules and Judiciary Committee of Student Congress will conduct an open meeting tonight at 8 o'clock in Room 226 of the Student Union to confirm the recently appointed student body vice president and student body treasurer.
The appointees, Joe Andronaco for vice president and Carol Hooks for treasurer, were named

by Student Body President Brien Lewis and must be approved by both the committee and the full congress, said Mark Bibbs, chairman of the committee. This is the first year a vice president has been appointed.
"We want students to come and give their input about the candidates for these positions," Bibbs said.

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