

# Student appointed to work with Carrboro aldermen

By MARIA BATISTA  
Staff Writer

In an effort to improve town-gown relations, Student Body President Brien Lewis will appoint UNC sophomore Peter Hans to serve as student liaison with the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.

Hans said he is looking forward to serving both student and local residents of Carrboro.

Hans has already attended Board of Aldermen meetings and they have been very receptive and cooperative, he said.

After the success of the program in Chapel Hill, Carrboro became interested in adopting the same program, he said.

"I think this is going to lead to a new era of cooperation between the community and the University — now our input will at least be considered," he said.

Some of the complaints that students in Carrboro have concern the bus service and the bike routes, Hans said.

"If students living in Carrboro have problems or suggestions, they could

come to me or take them to student government and I will relay these to the Board of Aldermen," he said.

"I think it's really important to keep the lines of communication open," said Lewis.

"The lines between Chapel Hill are barely visible, virtually non-existent," Lewis said. "It's just as important to have good relations with Carrboro as it is with Chapel Hill."

The needs of the local residents and the students must be met, and opening lines of communication between the two is the first step, Lewis

said. A student liaison position for the Chapel Hill Town Council was established this year and the communication between the University and the town has greatly improved, Lewis said.

"We have a wonderful relationship with Chapel Hill," he said. "We've made great strides."

Trey Loughran, former Chapel Hill student liaison, said he supported the proposal to create another town liaison position.

"I think it's a really good idea,"

he said. "Any way students can reach out and be heard more is great. It can only help to improve communication."

Loughran said only 15,000 UNC students live in Chapel Hill so many must live in Carrboro. The student opinions and problems that are discussed at the Chapel Hill Town Council meetings are not necessarily addressed by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.

A Carrboro student liaison will increase the student representation in both towns, he said.

Loughran said he feels his experience as liaison has benefited everyone in the community.

"It's been tremendous," he said. "We've opened up so many channels of communication. It's a formal line of communication so we (Loughran and town officials) can get to know each other informally."

This familiarity has led to Loughran's involvement on several town committees, increasing student influence. This will continue as recognition of the student population by the town governments increases, he said.

"It's made me much more aware of the issues the town faces that students don't know about. They need students to help," he said.

Loughran said of the recent formation of the Coordination and Consultation Committee to improve town-gown relations: "I think all constituencies should be recognized when major decisions are being made. There are 15,000 students in Chapel Hill — this represents a big force."

"The only ones who can speak for the students are the students."

## Historic district proposed

By KATHRYNE TOVO  
Staff Writer

Fraternities located near Columbia Street and Cameron Avenue soon may be part of a historic district if a proposal being considered by the town of Chapel Hill is approved.

The plan, which has generated support from fraternities in the designated area, would create a historic district extending from Columbia Street to Kenan Street and as far as University Drive.

It would include many residential houses as well as the fraternities located in and around big and little fraternity courts.

"If the area becomes a historic district, houses would be protected and preserved for the future," said Chapel Hill Planning Board member Berry Credle. "There are a number of houses in that area of some historical interest that are quite representative of how things were 40 to 50 years ago."

Last year, the town council hired a consultant to develop a historic district report on the area to see if it meets the qualifications; and both the planning board and the Chapel Hill Historic District Commission are now evaluating that report, said Arthur Jackson, a spokesman of the town planning department.

Reactions to the proposal vary among the planning board. Some individuals support the creation of the historic district while others feel the area should be left as it is now, he said.

Residents in a historic district are permitted to make interior alterations, but all exterior renovations must be approved by an appearance commission.

Fraternity houses and other commercial property in a historic district would be eligible to receive a 20 percent tax cut on any improvements made, Jackson said.

"The tax break would enable us to better maintain the general appearance and the tradition of the whole fraternity area," said David Parr, treasurer of Beta Theta Pi.

Representatives from several fraternities in the area attended the last meeting of the planning board to speak in support of the creation of a historic district.

Fraternities support the proposal because of the tax deduction and the potential impact the district could have on the Pittsboro Street extension plan, which would cut through little fraternity court and cause several fraternity houses in the surrounding area to relocate.

"The creation of a historic district would delay the Pittsboro Street extension," Delta Kappa Epsilon President Ray Farris said. "Our fraternity is mainly concerned with the tax break, because our house wouldn't be affected by the street extension, but we wouldn't want to see the other fraternities go down the tubes."

Mayor Jonathan Howes said he was unsure how the creation of a historic would affect the plans for Pittsboro Street extension.

The Coordination and Consultation Committee, consisting of representatives of the University and local towns, will discuss traffic issues at its May 1 meeting and may create a committee to study traffic conditions on Pittsboro Street and alternatives to the extension plan, Howes said.

"The Pittsboro Street extension is a long way from becoming reality," he said.

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