

CAMPUS AND CITY

NEWS BRIEFS

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Chapel Hill landmark closes after 86 years

A cardboard sign with the handwritten word "Closed" hangs outside the door to Top of the Hill.

Inside the window, stenciled letters on another sign spell out "Sorry, we're closed" and more pieces of cardboard cover the gasoline tanks.

Top of the Hill, an 86-year fixture on the corner of East Franklin and South Columbia streets, ended regular operating hours May 16 and will close completely once all merchandise has been sold. The store will be replaced by a three-story, 30,000 square-foot retail, office and restaurant complex.

Although the store had been scheduled for destruction for several months, both employees and customers were saddened when the end finally came to the store that had been a Chapel Hill institution.

"Everybody's upset about it," said John Thomas, an employee of the convenience store. "I guess when you leave something in the same place for 86 years, it gets familiar."

Although the plan to build the new shopping complex received strong support from the Chapel Hill Town Council at a public hearing in November, some questions were raised about possible violations of the Chapel Hill Development Ordinance.

The complex, owned by Joe Riddle of Fayetteville, will violate three standards of the ordinance for parking, floor area and height limits.

But the town council waived the standards for the development and members said they were enthusiastic about the development possibilities the complex presented to the downtown area.

Public hearing quiet on Chapel Hill budget

Residents addressing the Chapel Hill Town Council at a public hearing Tuesday night had few concerns about the proposed budget.

Only five residents signed up to address the council at the meeting about the proposed budget, which will not increase taxes in the upcoming fiscal year.

Francis DiGiano, a representative of Cleanscapes, Inc., which organizes G'Litter Days in Orange County, asked the council to reconsider placing his group's request for \$254 in the budget.

The Cleanscapes, Inc., money was not included in the preliminary budget plan proposed by the town manager.

Council member Julie Andresen said the company's work with various local groups made it worthy of receiving the town funding it requested, even though it may not be included in this year's budget.

"Some sort of symbolic support of this project is important," she said.

Josh Busby, a representative of the University's Greek recycling program and the Student Environmental Action Coalition, told the council that the Greek system had three main concerns — curbside tin and plastic pickup, cardboard pickup behind fraternity and sorority houses, and permanent drop-off sites to be used by fraternities.

"We are asking that expanded recycling projects be extended (to fraternities and sororities)," he said.

Both the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen currently are in the process of reviewing budget proposals for 1992-93. The Orange County budget was released after press time Wednesday.

Medical school holds awareness programs

In an effort to raise awareness about the dangers of anxiety and tension, the UNC School of Medicine department of psychiatry will co-sponsor a month-long program entitled "Handling Anxiety" with five other Orange County agencies.

The program will consist of three free public lectures.

All presentations will be held at the Chapel Hill Senior Center, 400 Elliott Road, from 7:15-9:15 p.m. Also, two videos, "Faces of Anxiety" and "The Panic Prison," will be shown throughout June on local cable channel 13.

Virginia firm may study airport relocation

By Peter Walkstein  
 Editor

University and local officials want to employ the help of an out-of-town consulting firm in negotiations to relocate Horace Williams Airport, according to a report released this week to a committee of town and University leaders.

"I think it will be absolutely marvelous for anyone with interests in this to bring concerns to an outside political body without any political accountability," UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin said.

The Coordination and Consultation Committee, which consists of leaders from UNC, Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County, agreed at a meeting Monday to recommend an organized public effort to relocate the University-owned airport. The plan now must be

approved by the Orange County Commissioners, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Complaints in recent years about noise and safety by neighbors of the airport, local school officials and other town residents have prompted local officials to search for a new airport site. Despite attempts in 1980 and 1987, UNC, municipal and county leaders have been unable to find an alternative site.

UNC officials, determined that the Horace Williams site is better suited for other purposes — such as student family housing or faculty apartments — want to relocate the airport as long as suitable facilities are found for the Area Health Education Center (AHEC), UNC's medical air program, Hardin

said. The 22-page report — compiled by Chapel Hill Town Manager Cal Horton, UNC Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Ben Tuchi, Carrboro Town Manager Bob Morgan and Orange County Manager John Link — recommends employing the Institute for Environmental Negotiation, a consulting firm based in Charlottesville, Va., to study the possibilities for relocation.

Horton said the process would cost \$15,000 to be split between UNC, Carrboro, Orange County and Chapel Hill. The group did not agree how to divide the cost, but discussed having each entity pay an amount relative to its budget.

The Institute, founded in 1981 to provide non-biased assistance to governments, businesses and residents, is

part of the University of Virginia School of Architecture. Its employees would work to gather facts from all sides in the airport dispute.

"The notion here is to begin a process of collecting information and to get an assessment from the Institute as to whether it is possible to get a solution of finding a site with proximity to Chapel Hill," Horton said. "We do think this notion of working together with disparate groups is of great value."

The Institute would work with other groups who have a stake in the airport relocation, Horton said. Representatives from Citizens for Airport Planning, the Chapel Hill Flying Club, AHEC and Stop the County Regional Airport Plan will take part in the process.

Meanwhile, the CCC discussed the possibility of studying an airport site in

northern Chatham County. The report contains little about any possible sites outside of Orange County, but Horton, who prepared the report, said a northern Chatham site was a definite possibility.

Tuchi, attending his last CCC meeting before starting his new job next month as the University of Pittsburgh's chief financial officer, said it would have been unfair to discuss any Chatham site in detail.

"The reason you see almost no mention of Chatham County (in the report) is because we thought it would be presumptuous to do so before they were notified," Tuchi said.

Hardin, also a member of the CCC, encouraged committee Chairman Moses Carey to inform Chatham County officials of the possibility.



OTH/Erin Randall

Tahini treat

Nabila Qadoura (r) and her brother, Jamil Kadoura, prepare food at Mediterranean Deli, their family-operated restaurant. The deli offers food from the Middle East, such as falafel, pita bread and tahini, at affordable prices. See story, page 4.

Changes downtown leave questions about future of small businesses

By Richard Dean  
 Staff Writer

The opening of The Gap on East Franklin Street last week drew an enthusiastic reception, but some residents say recent changes on Franklin Street signal continuing difficulties for "mom and pop" businesses.

Joy Underwood, the store manager, snipped a ceremonial ribbon to open the store in front of a small crowd of Gap employees and town officials. Ken Jackson, a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Downtown Commission, said The Gap would be a great addition to the downtown area.

Underwood said many local merchants had stopped by to wish the new business well, and Spanky's, Squid's, University Florist and 411 West sent congratulatory floral arrangements. Bill Metcalfe, manager of Barr-ee Station, said: "They did a great job remodeling, and we think it will bring more people downtown."

Kari Hardarson, a graduate student in Computer Science, said he likes the store's Chapel Hill location. "There's a big difference between driving to Northgate or South Square and stopping on Franklin Street after lunch," Hardarson said.

The Gap is located in the building that used to house the Carolina Blue and White Theater, which closed in Sep-

tember 1990. A new theater with 350 seats is tentatively scheduled to open in the rear of the same building next fall. The owner of the building, Joe Riddle of Fayetteville, also purchased Top of the Hill next door and plans to replace the convenience store with a building that will hold offices and shops.

Top of the Hill permanently closed this week.

Other changes have taken place on Franklin Street between the time of Carolina Theater's closing and The Gap's opening. Fowler's Food Store has been replaced with a shopping complex. Huggins Hardware and Baskin-Robbins are gone, and Milton's Clothing Cupboard, which has been on Franklin Street for 41 years, will relocate to Durham's Northgate Mall at the end of July.

While most merchants, students, and town residents are pleased that The Gap has arrived, not everyone is as happy with the general trend toward change downtown.

Town resident J.T. Garner, who stopped to look in The Gap Friday, thinks that downtown Franklin Street has deteriorated in the five years he has lived in Chapel Hill.

"There are too many t-shirt shops and stores selling cheap merchandise," he said, adding that The Gap will help reverse this trend.

Although Milton Julian, the owner of

Milton's Clothing Cupboard, said he was glad to have a retailer like The Gap downtown, he also thinks it has become difficult for small businesses to succeed on Franklin Street.

"It's sort of a shame that it's hard for a mom-and-pop business to open up here now," Julian said.

Sarah Hammond, co-owner of University Printery, said problems with delivery forced her business to relocate from Amber Alley on East Franklin Street to Carr Mill Mall in Carrboro.

Hammond said there is not enough space on Franklin Street for delivery trucks to park, and rear access to her building was cut off when construction began last fall on the Rosemary Street parking deck.

Franklin street is becoming more like a shopping mall, she said. "It's mostly just eating places and clothing shops now," Hammond said. "After 98 years on Franklin Street, no consideration was made for us, so we're celebrating our 100th anniversary in Carrboro."

But Jackson cautioned against seeing any trends in the changes on Franklin Street. He maintained that each business changes for different reasons and that downtown Chapel Hill is moving in the right direction.

Julian agreed that the downtown is economically healthy. "Even working overtime, you couldn't kill Franklin Street," he said.

Elimination of breakfast at Chase Hall may cause pay cut for some workers

By Donna van der Dijs  
 Staff Writer

The elimination of breakfast on weekdays at Chase Hall next year will have little effect on students employed there, although some full-time employees will lose a few hours, said Chris Derby, director of Carolina Dining Services.

Most student employees work during lunch or dinner, so they generally will not be affected by the elimination of breakfast hours, Derby said. Marriott employs 220 students, about 45 of whom work at Chase.

Full-time employees who worked at Chase during the breakfast hours will be reassigned to Lenoir Hall or Union Station, Derby said. Hours will be redistributed on the basis of seniority, he said.

Due to low sales during breakfast hours, the Food Services Advisory Committee decided in April to stop serving breakfast at Chase next year. Chase will be closed during the summer.

Although 3,000 students live on South Campus during the school year, only about 200 people, including faculty and staff members, ate breakfast each morning at Chase last year, Derby

said. "I rarely take advantage of Chase," said Larry Wilker, a graduate student in Latin American history from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "When I do go, it's empty."

Pavan Bhojwani, a rising senior business major from Surinam, said the closing did not matter because, "I don't eat breakfast."

Erika Ganit, a rising senior pre-med student from Charlotte, said the closing of Chase might get in the way of her schedule.

"It will be an inconvenience for those times when you want to get a quick and complete breakfast," Ganit said.

South Campus residents wanting to get a quick breakfast before heading to class will be able to go to the snack bars in Ehringhaus and Hinton James residence halls, Derby said.

Breakfast carts in the snack bars will offer items such as donuts, bagels, fresh fruit and beverages, Derby said. Chase would continue to offer weekend brunch.

The decision to close Chase for breakfast came after the Food Advisory Committee agreed that most students ate breakfast in Lenoir Hall or Union Station.

Planned Parenthood to treat men in Chapel Hill, Durham clinics

By Laura Ehrhardt  
 Staff Writer

Some men needing exams or medical assistance for sexually transmitted diseases can find help at Planned Parenthood clinics in Chapel Hill and Durham beginning next month.

The change will take place June 1, said Carolyn Miller, director of clinical services in Chapel Hill for Planned Parenthood. "It's always been in the planning stages," she said.

Miller said the decision to treat men will not change the focus of the clinics, which historically have concentrated on women's health issues.

"By treating the male partners of females, we are doing our female patients a service," she said.

Because Planned Parenthood is traditionally a place where women go to be seen by women, male clinicians will be hired "for males to have a choice," Miller said.

When asked about some women's

concerns of being seen alongside men in the clinics, Miller said, "In Chapel Hill we're not planning on doing male services at the same time (as female services) because of the layout of the clinic."

Miller also said that because the clinic in Durham is bigger, men and women can be seen during the same hours, but on separate sides of the clinic.

Although Miller could not predict the number of men who will seek help at Planned Parenthood, she said it would

depend on how they advertised the clinics. She said the organization will not advertise as a male clinic, but will continue only to see the male partners of their female patients.

The clinics will offer diagnosis and treatments of sexually transmitted diseases, in addition to overall physical exams. Miller was unsure as to whether the number of male patients would immediately increase. "If we advertise as an STD clinic in Durham, we would probably see a lot (of men)," she said.

Miller said that men already occasionally seek treatment at Planned Parenthood for the sexually transmitted diseases chlamydia and trich, but must sign a consent form before they are seen.

Chapel Hill resident Susan Switzer said she thinks the move was a positive one, although she expressed hope that Planned Parenthood would maintain its emphasis on female issues.

"It's good for both partners," she said. "They shouldn't lose the focus on women."

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