

# WEEKLY SUMMER EDITION

# The Daily Tar Heel

Volume 102, Issue 44  
101 years of editorial freedom  
Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1994

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245  
Business/Advertising 962-1163  
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## Merchants Force Temporary End of Downtown Plan

BY JAMIE KRITZER  
CITY EDITOR

A downtown improvement plan that has been four years in the making may not even make the slightest dent in Chapel Hill after merchants and town planners unexpectedly postponed it Tuesday.

About a dozen merchants, concerned that prolonged digging of walkways in front of their stores would hurt business, opposed the plan, much to the chagrin of town officials.

"We had spent a fair amount of time preparing and planning for this," said Bruce Heflin, Chapel Hill Public Works director. "Obviously we were not ready for this."

The concerned merchants will voice their objections to the project to the Chapel Hill Town Council June 13. The pilot project was to refurbish several hundred feet of walkways on the northern side of

West Franklin Street from Hams Restaurant to Chapel Hill Cleaners. It would have served as a test to illustrate to the community the benefit of the overall project.

Streetscape, modeled after a similar program in Charlotte, would replace sidewalks and street lights along a four-mile stretch of Franklin and Rosemary streets.

But several merchants would like to see that this never happens.

"Ultimately, I would say, given how bad business has been this year, I would just as soon not have it," Berkeley Grimbald, a co-owner of Grimbald & Stokes said. "For three months, there would be jack-hammers. People are not going to stop by in the stores when this is going on."

Tuesday's meeting was originally designed to discuss construction and its impact on the approximately 35 business owners on that stretch of Franklin Street. Construction plans, however, were never

discussed during the 30-minute meeting, most of which was taken up with the merchants' concerns.

The duration of the project was a problem with most of the business owners. The project's landscape superintendent, Curtis Brooks, said Sunday that the pilot plan running several hundred feet along Franklin Street was due to be completed by the end of the summer. Grimbald, however, said Brooks didn't tell him the project would take the summer to complete until a week ago.

"This is bad," Brooks said. "It isn't anything at all what I had anticipated."

Another major deficiency was communication of the project to the merchants. Several owners along West Franklin Street even said they didn't know what Streetscape was. Grimbald said this had been a major problem.

"They went from talking about taking

six weeks to taking 14 weeks," he said. "The money we would be losing would be considerable. My explanation is that we may look obstructionist, but really we are survivalist."

Three months ago, Grimbald took a petition around to fellow West Franklin Street business owners to find out if they had his same concerns.

"My impression is that they are all against this," he said. "Some more than others."

But Brooks said the people at the meeting only represented those who were against the plan's inception. "There are definitely people for it, but they didn't come to this meeting," he said.

One of those business owners is Chanelo's owner Ray Harvey. Harvey said he thought Streetscape would have a positive effect on the area, but acknowledged the difficulties it might cause to businesses.

A large part of the design of the project is that it would not take place all at one time. The sidewalks and lighting revisions were, instead, to be completed in small segments along Franklin and Rosemary streets. The entire process was estimated to take several years. The town had proposed trying to obtain funding as the project was carried out.

Scott Radway, a member of the planning board, said that was a problem. Radway's biggest concern is that doing the project in pieces without having all funding appropriated from the start of construction would be the wrong approach.

"Working with 75 feet of improvement in front of one building and then 75 feet of improvement in front of another building, in the longer run of making budget decisions, then it will have problems," he said. "The town should go ahead and bite the bullet and make a commitment of it. They

should get all of the construction cost appropriated beforehand."

Radway added that business people worried about the success of their stores during the Streetscape construction process had a legitimate concern.

Stacy Franklin, manager of Hams Restaurant, said she thought her restaurant wouldn't have suffered because there was more than one way for customers to get there. "But I've heard a couple of big objections," she added.

Prior to Tuesday, Franklin was preparing for the project by placing ads in two newspapers telling customers that Hams would still be open.

Several of the merchants got up and left before Brooks, who has worked on the project for four years, could complete his mapped explanation of Streetscape.

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## Jurors Express Regret Over Simpson Verdict

BY JAMIE KRITZER  
CITY EDITOR

At least two jurors in the Anthony Simpson murder trial are feeling remorse and anguish one week after they handed down the lesser sentence of second-degree murder in the shooting death of Kristin Lodge-Miller last July.

In a case where jurors stood racially divided for most of their 11 hours of deliberations, one white juror even went so far as to say she returned the wrong verdict Wednesday afternoon.

"I'd never had to deal with this decision," said the juror, who chose to remain anonymous. "I didn't like it. I didn't know where it came from."

In response to the verdict, residents in the community have joined forces with the Orange County Women's Center, Orange

County Commission for Women and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center to explore what can be done legally to keep 18-year-old Simpson from being granted parole in about nine years.

"(Lodge-Miller) was totally innocent, and taking up the fact that she used Mace to fight him off is ridiculous," said Donna Livingston, supervisor at The Club For Women Only. "We're just trying to focus around this case, to send the message that this verdict should have been a lot more severe."

Protesters will hold the forum in the Phillips Middle School auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 9. It will be followed by a candlelight march from the school to the site where Lodge-Miller was shot.

During the trial, a note sent to Orange County Superior Court Judge Gordon Battle the day before the verdict was reached

"There was a lot of discussion about race before a vote on first-degree murder came out. I'd never considered myself a racist."

ANONYMOUS JUROR  
On racial tensions within the jury

said that jurors were divided 8 — who believed Simpson committed first-degree murder — to 4 — who felt Simpson lacked deliberation when he shot Lodge-Miller five times with a .32-caliber handgun.

The juror confirmed that the eight who believed Simpson committed first-degree murder were white. The other four were

black females. A statement on the note to Battle read: "We have both disagreement on the conclusion ... and we have disagreement on the definition of deliberation. The pull (8-4) has been unchanged since the overnight recess."

But the white juror recalled more than just deliberation at stake in the decision process.

"There was a lot of discussion about (race) before a vote on first-degree murder came out," she said. "I'd never considered myself a racist," she elaborated. "Heck, some of my best friends are black, and I'd never encountered being attacked like that. When that happened, I almost became immobile ... frozen within myself."

She said black jurors were contending that black males had a "rage" that caused

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"Death Is Forever" lies painted on Estes Drive in reaction to Anthony George Simpson's sentence. After Simpson was sentenced Thursday to life in prison, some residents protested at the site where Kristin Lodge-Miller was killed.

## Ex-Carolina Players Buy Dance Club

BY NANCY JANE JOYCE  
STAFF WRITER

Two former towering Tar Heels revisited their alma mater this week, but not just to shoot some hoops and sport Carolina blue.

Former first-team All-American forward J.R. Reid and center Marty Hensley came back to buy Players, the famous Chapel Hill night spot.

Reid, who now plays for the San Antonio Spurs, said he had always wanted to be in the nightclub business.

"This was a great opportunity because we don't have to go out and buy all the equipment," Reid said. "We're going to keep the place pretty much the same."

Hensley, who played at UNC from 1985 through 1990, said his goal was to go into business for himself.

"I wasn't necessarily interested in the nightclub business, but J.R. was," said the 6-foot-11-inch Hensley. "I knew this was a great opportunity."

Hensley and Reid have been friends since their Tar Heel days and have kept in touch because Hensley takes care of Reid's finances. "When this opportunity came up, neither one of us could turn it down," Hensley said.



Marty Hensley and J.R. Reid stand outside their new acquisition, Players, on East Franklin Street. The two former Tar Heels said they would not make many changes but would consider opening on Wednesday nights.

spent less time at work.

"It's time to move on to other business opportunities and another lifestyle. Things just change," he said. "I got married two years ago, and the life of coming home from work at 4 a.m. is not conducive to a marriage."

McCormick said he and his brother had considered selling Players when he got married. "My two partners, from the beginning, wanted to get out, but I thought the offers we received were too low," he

## Harris: Search Committee Full for Now

BY THANASSIS CAMBANIS  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Despite the resignation of chancellor search committee member James Peacock, the committee makeup will stay just the way it is, according to committee chairman Johnny Harris.

Harris, who also is chairman of the Board of Trustees, announced Thursday afternoon shortly before the committee went into executive session to discuss personnel matters that he would not add anyone to the search committee.

"At this point, we're going to leave (the seat) vacant," Harris said.

Peacock, an anthropology professor whose name was suggested as a possible chancellor candidate, resigned from the committee in late April. Some student leaders had, at the time, suggested replacing Peacock with a student representative.

"I have been contacted by numerous interest groups to replace Jim Peacock on the committee," Harris said. "I have decided not to add anyone at this time. And that's the way it will stand for the present."

Student Body Vice President Donnell Phillips said Tuesday that students still could play a valuable role in the search process.

"We did want to add another student," Phillips said. "(But) I think a coalition of students can sit down and figure out some concrete characteristics they feel would be necessary to have in a new chancellor, but I don't feel that would require meeting a lot."

The search committee should hold more open meetings in the fall, so students can communicate their desired characteristics, Phillips said.

The committee now has 21 members — six representing UNC faculty, seven from the BOT and eight alumni representatives.

"If it becomes obvious later that we

## Staff Presents Chancellor Criteria

BY THANASSIS CAMBANIS  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

There are no staff members on the search committee.

Dean of the School of Medicine and search committee member Stuart Bonduant agreed that no sufficient staff development program was in place. "If it were easy, it would have been done before now," he said.

At the forum, staff representatives asked search committee members how they planned to incorporate the interests of the University's staff when selecting finalists.

"We feel the committee is representative of as many constituencies as we could reach," Whichard said, adding that the search committee had held several open meetings for staff and was willing to take suggestions.

Other committee members emphasized support for University staff.

"The interests of the SPA employees are the interests of the institution," Bonduant said.

Peter Schledorn, a computing consultant for research services, said the atmosphere and organization of staff was not conducive to productivity and security.

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need more people, I will consider adding another member at that time," Harris said. "It's a decision I have made as chair, and that's the way it will stand for the present."

Phillips said she thought the committee had enough members, adding that students had missed the best chance to contribute during April's open hearings.

"Johnny Harris has somewhat compromised by having the open meetings that anyone could attend," Phillips said. "So

## Rostenkowski Indicted, Loses Influential Post

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON — Rep. Dan Rostenkowski's successor as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee today said broad political corruption charges against his predecessor wouldn't slow the pace of health care reform.

Though "shocked and saddened" by the charges against Rostenkowski, Rep. Sam Gibbons, D-Fla., the new chairman, said he would seek quick committee action on health care legislation the panel had been drafting under the leadership of the Chicago Democrat.

"As soon as Congress reconvenes a week from today we will be ready to go to work," Gibbons said in a telephone interview from France, where he was attending festivities

celebrating the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

Even though the indictment removes Rostenkowski as a key player in the health care debate, Gibbons said, "I don't think it has any adverse effect" on President Clinton's campaign to overhaul the nation's medical insurance system.

Asked today if Rostenkowski's troubles

would hurt health reform, White House Communications Director Mark Gearan said on NBC: "Congressman Rostenkowski is entitled to his day in court. What we need to do now is continue the good work he has started." Gibbons joined other leading House members in lamenting Rostenkowski's fall.

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### Editor's Note

If you usually pick up your copy of The Daily Tar Heel or other local newspapers along Elliott Road in front of Village Plaza Shopping Center, you may have discovered that the newspaper racks are gone. The shopping center management removed those racks, which were on public property, against the wishes of the media who vend there.

You can register your complaint or approval with Chris Shaw of Ginn and Co. at 967-2040.

He who runs away can run away another day.

Maverick