

Deadlocked Town Council Decides To Wait on Taxicab Driver Permit

Locked in a 4-4 tie, Chapel Hill Town Council members postponed voting until an ailing Barbara Booth-Powell can return.

BY RENÉE TOY
STAFF WRITER

Local taxicab companies will have one fewer driver to consider until the Chapel Hill Town Council decides whether to grant Clarence Webb a taxicab driver's permit.

Council members tabled Webb's petition until Council member Barbara Booth-Powell returns from her leave of absence due to an illness. She is needed to cast the deciding vote to break the council's 4-4 deadlock.

Webb, a Chapel Hill resident, was convicted of manslaughter 11 years ago and served three years in the North Carolina prison system. Since then, Webb, 45, has tried to turn his life around.

Webb applied for a Chapel Hill taxicab driver's permit in December 1995 and was denied because of a town ordinance which states that persons convicted of manslaughter cannot obtain a taxi permit.

After Town Manager Cal Horton denied Webb's appeal, the Town Council voted 5-2 on May 13 to grant Webb the permit. Because six votes are needed for an ordinance to pass on first reading, the Council must have at least five positive votes upon the second reading for it to pass. On May 29, Mayor Rosemary Waldorf rescinded her vote in support of Webb.

"I made a mistake," Waldorf said at the meeting. "I'm just terribly uncomfortable making this exemption in this case because we are promising a certain level of safety to the public when we grant these taxi franchises."

The Council ended up in a 4-4 deadlock, a disappointment for Webb, who had been hopeful after the May 13 vote. Council members Richard Franck, Lee Pavao and Pat Evans also voted against granting the permit.

"It's definitely heartbreaking, but also mind-baffling because I don't understand, after all I've presented to the Town Council,

that they can still vote not to grant me a permit," Webb said. "I feel that it's wrong because I have more than proven myself. What good is rehabilitation if you are going to close doors after people have been rehabilitated?"

In addition to completing a detoxification program and holding a steady job as a cabinetmaker, Webb has devoted some of his time to Freedom House Detox, a drug rehabilitation program, and to the Interfaith Council Community Shelter. Webb also was married last year and was granted custody of his 14-year-old daughter three years ago.

Many of Webb's friends and colleagues have appealed to the Council on his behalf, either in writing or in person.

In a letter to the Council, Gordon DeFosset, who has known Webb for eight years, wrote, "During the time that I have known Clarence, I have seen him grow into a responsible, hard-working, conscientious person."

Stephen Loney, a substance abuse counselor who has known Webb for five years, told the Council on May 29 that Webb had been punished, been rehabilitated and made his restitution.

"There are a lot of people out there who have made mistakes," Loney said. "Do they pay for them for the rest of their lives, or is there a point where we give people an opportunity?"

Council member Julie Andresen voted in favor of Webb. She said the character testimonies on Webb's behalf convinced her he was a changed man and an exemplary person. "To me, he is an impressive individual in how he leads his life now," she said.

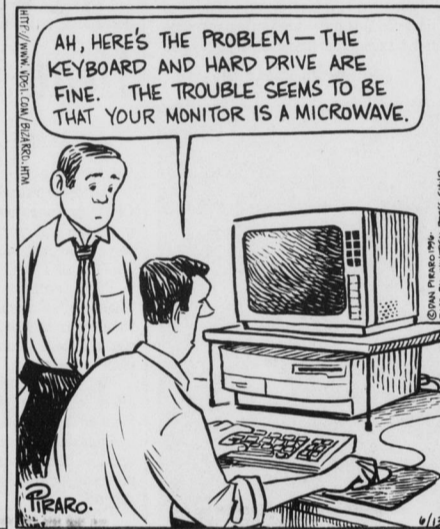
Council member Richard Franck voted against granting the permit because he said he believes it is important that laws be enforced as they were written.

"I'm not tempted to make an exemption to a law for a single individual," Franck said. "I'm terribly happy that he's been able to turn his life around and certainly there are other avenues available to him for employment."



Chapel Hill Mayor ROSEMARY WALDORF rescinded her vote in support of Webb on May 29 to create the deadlock.

Bizarro



Head Start Raises Funds for Building

Head Start has sponsored three fund-raisers to pay for a free-standing facility.

BY SARAH CORBITT
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill is thought of by many people as an easy place to live and work. For the economically disadvantaged, however, affording the necessities of life — including child care — is hard.

Head Start, a federal program begun in the 1970s by President Lyndon Johnson, is attempting to solve that problem. Its mission is to provide free day care services for poor children aged 3 to 4.

Presently, Head Start personnel are working on raising funds for the first free-standing Head Start building in Carrboro, the Carr Court Building. This spring and summer, Head Start workers have held a series of fund raisers to collect money for the new building.

Federal funding and private donations

have kept the program alive in the past. Funding chairwoman Mary Norwood-Jones said recent cuts in federal aid meant the program must rely more heavily on private donations and fund raisers to stay in business.

Fund raisers have so far targeted the community the new building will serve. Most recently, parents and staffers gathered at the Mount Olive Masonic Lodge for a fish fry. That event raised \$500 for the building fund.

Head Start also got an earful on May 31 when the Cat's Cradle sponsored "A Head Start on Summer." The Rolly Gray and Sunfire Reggae Band and the Storm Front Band performed. The benefit, which solicited DJs from the community, featured DJ Special K, DJ Smokey B and DJ A. Magic. Head Start netted \$750 through the benefit.

"We deem it a success," Norwood-Jones said, "and we want to thank (Cat's Cradle owner) Frank Heath for agreeing to sponsor a benefit."

The first fund raiser was a Penny Harvest which was held from March 30 through

April 2 at University Mall. Passers-by dropped their loose change into Head Start coffers. Norwood-Jones recounted the story of one man who brought over \$80 in pennies.

Penny Harvest was good this year: the program raised \$2,000. And Chapel Hill resident Mrs. Adele Thomas matched the Harvest funds.

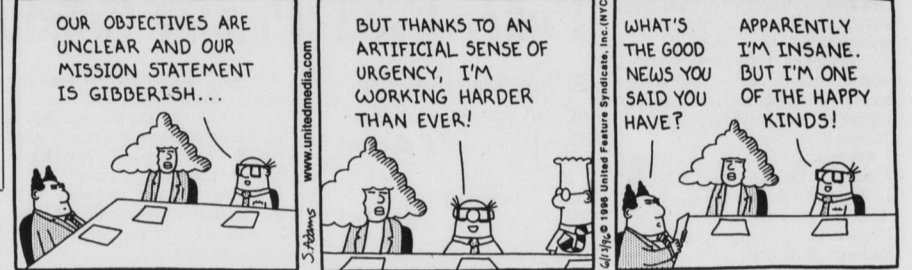
Norwood-Jones said fund-raising would continue in the future.

"We are always still accepting donations. We will still need funds to pay for the playground, to lay the walkways, for building fund-raising, equipment," she said. "And of course, we will continue to raise money to help out the children."

The Carr Court Center will house more Head Start classrooms as will space in a 3,700 square foot building off Brewer Lane in Carrboro. Groundbreaking for the Carr Court Center will begin in August, Norwood-Jones said.

Estimates place enrollment at 54 students per year for the Carr Court Center. Day care will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every day.

Dilbert



THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: 1 Indispensables, 6 Moves little by little, 11 Right-angled bend in a pipe, 14 Nile River city, 15 Ms. Thomas, 16 Golf club part, 17 Nile River city, 18 Theater, 20 Head, 21 Raised railroads, 22 Regularity, 23 Travels, 25 Lovers' meeting, 27 Be dependent for support, 28 Powdery residue, 29 To and —, 30 Period, 32 Pittsburgh player, 34 Join metal parts, 38 Asian kingdom, once, 39 Weighty, 41 Danish port, 43 Plummeted, 44 Mix or Brokaw, 45 "— byones...", 46 Botanist Gray, 47 Indian garment, 51 He was Mr. Spock, 53 Difficult journey, 54 Like a contortionist, 56 No longer working: abbr., 57 In favor of, 58 Disintegrate, 60 Zodiac sign, 63 Holiday time, 64 Championship, 65 Mother-of-pearl, 66 Ruddy, 67 Derisive look, 68 Belgian city, 3 Tender of animals, 4 Starchy plants, 5 Parvenu, 6 Sovereign ruler, 7 Waste time, 8 Green plants, 9 TV Tarzan, Ron —, 10 London district, 11 Musical piece, 12 Worthless one, 13 Distrustful, 19 Hockey's Bobby, 23 Struggle for air, 24 Bone: pref., 25 Renegade's crime, 26 Streetcar, 29 Spark producer, 31 Northern native, 33 Dir. letters, 35 Rather or Duryea, 36 — Burroughs, 37 Della the singer, 40 A state: abbr., 42 Arab ruler's domain, 43 Conspirer, 47 Morley of TV, 48 Century plant, 49 Angered, 50 Badly, 52 Blackbird, 53 Judaic law, 55 Diner sign, 57 Snake's weapon, 59 Brooch, 61 Sea bird, 62 Collection.

Have a Ball with Dad!

To help make this Father's Day the best ever, the first 200 people who visit our Customer Service Center on Saturday, June 15, and present at least \$50 in mall store purchase receipts (dated June 13-15, 1996), can receive a prize package that includes two tickets to the July 6, Durham Bulls vs. Salem Avalanche Baseball Game, and two official Durham Bulls team caps.

Receive Free Durham Bulls Ball Tickets for Dad— Saturday, June 15!

Plus, you can bring the kids to meet team players and mascot Wool E. Bull at the mall from Noon through 2:00 p.m. And don't forget, all day long you can have your Father's Day gift purchases wrapped for free in Center Court!



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Durham, North Carolina
919-493-2451

*Limit one prize package per family while supplies last. July 6, 1996 game time is 7:00 p.m. Other restrictions may apply. Visit the Customer Service Center for complete details.

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