

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## TAXING QUESTION\$

BY REYNOLDS RICHTER  
STAFF WRITER

Property taxes hide in monthly checks to the landlord. They come from houses, businesses, practically everything that takes up space on land and the land itself. And taxes lurk at the base of local elections.

Chapel Hill residents pay property taxes in some form. Homeowners and land owners pay taxes directly on

their property.

Chapel Hill Town Council candidate William Lindsay said the \$4,000 in taxes he paid on his Chapel Hill home is excessive. "If my house were in Pittsboro, N.C., I'd be paying \$600 a year in taxes," Lindsay said.

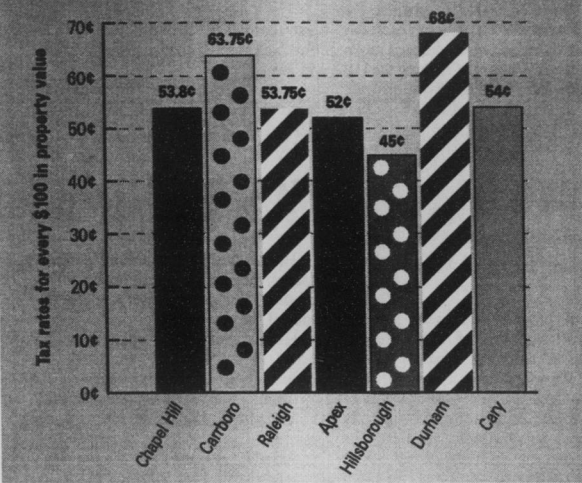
Occupants of apartments, duplexes and triplexes have rent levels that change with the ebb of the tax rate.

Chapel Hill duplex resident Rex Coughenour pays property taxes second-hand through his landlord. "The taxes are often reflected in rent," he said. "If I rented the same thing in Hillsborough, I'd be paying less." However, Coughenour is satisfied with the amount of services he receives for his tax money. Sanitation workers enter his side yard to collect his trash. "I get good garbage removal, and the streets are well-maintained," Coughenour said. "I have maybe a problem with crime, but the police at least try to do something about it."

While downtown resident Caroline Martens described her property taxes as "steep," she said the high tax level was a necessary cost of liv-

### The facts about tax

Most candidates have identified property taxes as one of the most significant issues facing the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Some have questioned whether the money is being used efficiently regarding local construction projects.



DTH/ANDRES FERNANDEZ

ing in a progressive community. "It's the price that you pay for living in an enlightened place that educates its kids well and wants to be sure that all of its citizens are well-treated," Martens said.

However, Lindsay said the town uses tax money inefficiently in its construction projects. "If you've ever been by a job site watching the (Town) of Chapel Hill work the way they work, there's one guy down in a

ditch working his tail off while four people are standing there looking at him," he said.

Because UNC is located on state-owned land, dormitory prices do not reflect tax increases, said Mike Beery, UNC property officer.

This year the Council lowered the property tax rate in Chapel Hill from 59.6 cents per every \$100 of proper-

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## Service fraternities' parties unregulated

Professional and service fraternities follow the University alcohol policy.

BY B. FORREST ANDERSON III  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

As the University continues to crack down on alcohol use on campus and within social fraternities and sororities, service and professional fraternities are not subject to the same scrutiny.

The University alcohol policy states that student organizations cannot use group funds to purchase alcohol.

Professional and service fraternities follow the University alcohol policy, but they are not regulated.

"We don't have anybody that checks on us, or guidelines for that concern," said Margot Mahon, social chairwoman for Alpha Epsilon Delta, the pre-medical fraternity.

Ron Binder, director of Greek Affairs, said social fraternities and sororities managed their own affairs with the assistance of the Office of Greek Affairs.

Alpha Epsilon Delta does not have a policy on alcohol, Mahon said. "We don't stress (alcohol) as part of (the fraternity), but it is a part of it."

"We don't usually use group funds for alcohol, or we try not to."

"Our national policy in the document we go by neither encourages nor discourages alcohol use," said Jennie Perey,

president of Phi Sigma Pi, an honor, service and social fraternity.

Alcohol use is left up to individual discretion, she said. "We all have to understand what actions we take, whether drinking or not, reflects on the fraternity," she said.

When drinking occurs at parties, it is usually held at a member's house, so it is not technically a Phi Sigma Pi party, Perey said.

"If we have a party, we ask that our pledges take their pins off for that time," she said.

She said that if something were to go wrong, she didn't know what the liability would be with the national fraternity. "In the worse-case scenario, we would lose our University recognition," Perey said.

Amrish Patel, social chairman of Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity, said their parties catered to all types of people.

They have potluck dinners, go ice skating and go bowling. "Technically, there is no alcohol (when we have parties)," he said.

SEE FRATERNITY, PAGE 4



Greek Affairs Director **RON BINDER** said social fraternities and sororities were able to manage their own affairs with Greek Affairs' help.

## Officials debate campaign finance

Council member Joe Capowski said candidates should list all contributors.

BY JON OSTENDORFF  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Chapel Hill Town Council candidates who have not filed an itemized list of campaign finances have caused some local leaders to cry foul.

Council member Joe Capowski said he had filed an itemized list of contributors with the Orange County Board of Elections every time he had run for a seat. Capowski is not up for re-election this year.

"I presented an itemized list of everyone who gave me a dime," Capowski said. "As a citizen of Chapel Hill, I want to know who is funding the candidates. As a voter I would like to know this information before the election."

Capowski said campaign contributors show whom the candidates support.

"It is important for the voters to know who has a vested interest," he said. "As elected officials we make decisions. We need to be sure the decisions we make are not being influenced by our contributors."

Edith Wiggins, who is running for re-election, did not present an itemized list of contributors to the elections board.

But in a press release she stated that she received 135 contributions, ranging from \$10 to \$100 with the majority falling between \$25 and \$50. For contributions less than \$100, the elections board does not require candidates to submit an itemized list of contributors.

Wiggins said her contributors include homemakers, University faculty and staff, developers and renters.

Wiggins also said members of organizations including Alliance for Neighborhoods and the Sierra Club have contributed.

Wiggins said she did not submit an itemized list to the elections board because in many cases only the largest contributors were reported.

Greg Gangi, political chairman of

the Orange-Chatham Group of the Sierra Club, said candidates who had received contributions from developers should be barred from voting on issues where their contributors have an interest. "I think ethically they need to excuse themselves from development issue votes," he said.

Richard Franck, who is running for re-election and submitted itemized contribution list, said it was the voters' right to know who would contribute.

"On a national level we have seen so many problems with campaign finance, I think voters could make better decisions when they know who is supporting a candidate," he said.

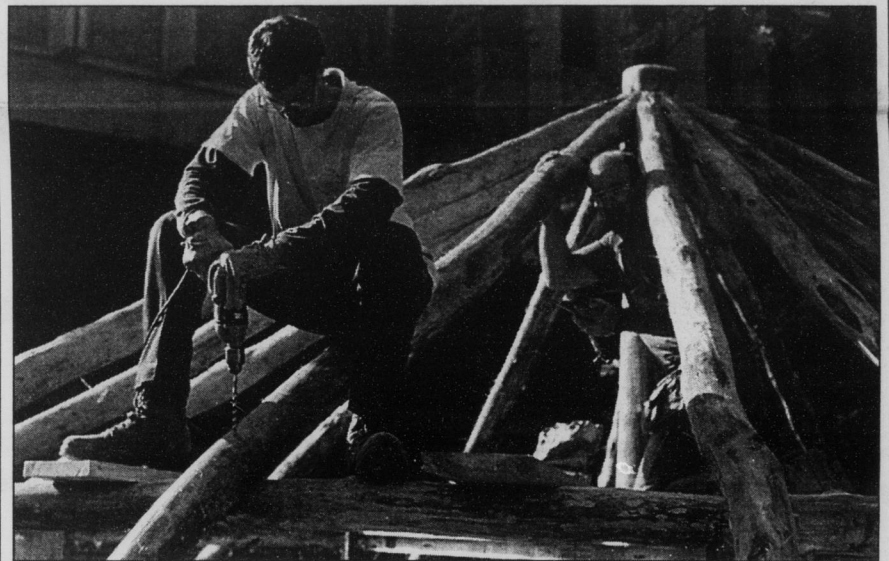
Lee Pavao, who is also running for re-election and did not submit an itemized list, said the only reason to divulge campaign finance information would be to expose large contributions.

"One hundred dollars is not going to buy a vote," Pavao said.

Franck said it was important to list all contributors regardless of the size of the contribution due to the nature of fund raising in local elections.

Franck said, "I don't think large donations have a place in this election."

### RAISING THE ROOF



DTH/LORRAIE BRADLEY

Stephen Keith, left, and Bob Chamberlain add finishing touches to a gazebo roof in Coker Arboretum. The wisteria arbor of the Arboretum is being renovated as part of the 1997 Senior Class Gift.

## Committee studying RHA opens communication lines

Alena Hall, Residence Hall Association president, says the study could help.

BY EVAN SAUDA  
STAFF WRITER

A Student Congress committee met for the first time Monday to establish the best way to communicate with and learn from the Residence Hall Association.

Speaker of Student Congress James Hoffman has pushed for an examination of the RHA all semester to see if officers have been accountable for how they spend money. Until now the RHA was not contacted.

Committee member Alex Bass, Dist. 15, said the committee could now move forward.

"This committee will provide us with the opportunity to really learn about the RHA," he said.

RHA President Allena Hall said she hoped the RHA could learn something as well.

"Hopefully we will be able to learn what residents think and improve par-

ticipation at area events," Hall said.

"I guess they'll be doing a little bit of our work for us," since these duties are normally carried out by the RHA alone, she said.

Rep. Bill Heeden, chairman of the committee, met with Hall and spoke after the committee meeting Monday night.

At this meeting, Hall invited the entire committee to the RHA executive board meeting Tuesday.

"The invitation has been extended and as many members as are available will be in attendance," Heeden said.

Hall said she was glad that she was being kept up to date on the progress of the committee.

"I was very happy that (Rep. Heeden) did give me a copy of the report and let me know what they were planning," Hall said.

The RHA Enhancement Committee plans to create an e-mail address to serve as a place where residents and RHA personnel can give their comments and suggestions, Heeden said.

The address has yet to be determined, but Heeden said it would be finalized by Friday.

## Aldermen stand behind agreement

One alderman called the deadline for the interlocal landfill agreement flexible.

BY BARRETT BREWER  
STAFF WRITER

As Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Orange County wrestle with the adoption of the Interlocal Agreement concerning solid waste matters, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted to formally approve the agreement in a letter addressed to the Assembly of Governments.

The Interlocal Agreement is an official agreement among Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Orange County governments on how the future Orange County landfill will be managed and where it will be located, among various other conditions.

The current controversy surrounding the agreement arose when officials learned the Duke University-owned site under consideration for the future landfill had been released to NASA for a research easement.

Without a future site, officials are scrambling to find a new location for the landfill by the Dec. 1 deadline.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen, at its Tuesday night meeting, decided to take a pro-active role in the adoption of the Interlocal Agreement on waste management by formally approving the agreement with the 14 points and the compensation package. The board did not approve the sewer section due to the \$10 million it would cost.

"It's really important for us to carry this ball forward," said Mike Nelson, mayor of Carrboro.

"We ought to show some leadership on this issue."

The fate of the agreement is scheduled to be voted on by Dec. 1, but the Orange County Board of Commissioners said the deadline could be unrealistic considering this latest setback.

But Alderman Diana McDuffee said



Carrboro Mayor **MIKE NELSON** said it was important for the town to keep the momentum going as the Dec. 1 deadline nears.

"I think the deadline is self-imposed, and it can be changed. If Dec. 1 comes and we haven't made (a decision), we won't die."

**DIANA MCDUFFEE**  
Carrboro Alderman

she felt the deadline for the adoption of the agreement was flexible and could be changed by the Assembly of Governments in order to accommodate any changes or complications that could arise. "I think the deadline is self-imposed, and it can be changed," she said. "If Dec. 1 comes and we haven't made (a decision), we won't die."

Alderman Alex Zaffron said the decision to formally approve the Interlocal Agreement stemmed from county commissioners' apparent change in position. Zaffron said the commissioners appeared to shift their role with the new landfill site now that site OC-17 could no longer be used. "It has to be remembered that the commissioners originally suggested taking responsibility," Zaffron said. "Their position appears to have changed suddenly ..."

## INSIDE

### Beyond black and white

Public colleges facing court criticism for affirmative action programs must move past preference policies. But what comes next? Page 5



### Today's weather

Sunny;  
mid 60s  
Thursday: Partly sunny;  
mid 60s

### Calling campus events

The Daily Tar Heel is expanding its campus calendar capabilities through its CitySearch web site. Post campus events as far in advance as you want by e-mailing them to DTH@unc.edu with the subject line "campus calendar." Submission rules for the printed campus calendar remain the same.

Everything I did in my life that was worthwhile I caught Hell for.

Earl Warren