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Council seeks new authority from state

■ One law calls for live-in managers to be placed in fraternities and sororities.

BY STEVE MRAZ
SENIOR WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council is making a list and checking it twice.

Tuesday night the council discussed a request list of potential laws over which the N.C. General Assembly could give them authority. However, no official request will be submitted until early March.

As a town, Chapel Hill must have all of its laws created at the state legislative level.

One of the written requests calls for restricting happy hours and other special discounts and promotions by businesses selling alcoholic beverages, while another requires full-time resident managers in fraternity and sorority houses. "Most of those are controversial," said council member Pat Evans. "Most will not be considered because of the short session (of the General Assembly) this year."

UNC senior Kelly Giles, a member of the Kappa Alpha Order Fraternity, said he knew sororities had house mothers but did not know of fraternities that had or wanted a live-in manager.

"We have enough pressure from (Ron) Binder (Director of Greek Affairs) doing all his stuff," he said. "A house mother or father would create added pressure we don't need."

Giles said besides a mixer or two during the semester people usually just hung out at the house and didn't need continual supervision.

"It'd be like being at home all over again," he said. "You've waited 18 years to get out of that situation, and you come here and have it all over again."

However, Evans said there were probable benefits from live-in managers at fraternities.

"It's an idea that someone assumes a sense of responsibility," she said.

Questions also surround possible regulations at local businesses that sell alcoholic beverages.

Lauren Kellner, a manager at T.S. Elliott's Groundhog Tavern on Franklin Street, said restricting happy hour was not a problem but said she was concerned with restrictions on special discounts and promotions.

"That's a bit much," she said. "Why would they want to do that?"

Happy hours have been outlawed in North Carolina since legislation was passed in 1985.

Another of the five potential requests calls for placing restrictions on the University from acquiring privately held land and buildings.

When the University acquires such holdings, the properties are no longer

SEE LEGISLATION, PAGE 11

Students make way for substance-free halls

BY CHRISTINE ELLIOTT
STAFF WRITER

A recommendation by the Chancellor's Task Force on substance abuse and student demand for substance-free living have led University officials to make three residence halls "substance free."

The Department of University Housing sent letters this week to students living in Manly, Old West and Winston residence halls explaining the details of the program, said Wayne

Kuncl, director of University housing.

As part of an effort to decrease on-campus substance abuse, University housing will open 328 new substance-free spaces. That triples the number now available.

"People seem



Housing Director WAYNE KUNCL's office wrote students.

to be happy with the (substance-free) program and supportive of its goals," said Jenna McPhee, the area director for Ehringhaus Residence Hall. Ehringhaus is home to all 165 of the current substance-free spaces.

The original substance-free program, Ehringhaus' Living Well Program, was created six years ago at the request of students, said Wayne Thompson, assistant director for special programs for University housing.

The Living Well Program requires participation in several activities during

the semester. However, Ehringhaus' 1-year-old Substance-Free Floor is a result of students requesting substance-free living without required activities.

Thompson believes the expansion will allow interested students more opportunity, and, "because of the locations, students will want to choose this option."

The other main reason for expanding the program is the Chancellor's Substance Abuse Task Force recommended substance-free residence halls in its 1997 report, Thompson said.

According to the letter the University housing sent out, expansion will benefit students who have problems with roommates because of drugs or alcohol, who are recovering from drug problems or who dislike cigarette smoke.

Students now living in Old West, Manly or Winston have the option to join the program or leave. David Kernodle, a sophomore in Old West, said he's fine with staying but he expected others to be less receptive.

SEE SUBSTANCE, PAGE 11

Women play historic role in '98 SBP race

BY KAITLIN GURNEY
STAFF WRITER

In a century of women at UNC, the last bastion that has remained elusive to female leadership has been the student body presidency.

The very year the University celebrates the 100th anniversary of women on campus, the unprecedented has occurred in student government: three women filed for the office of student body president Wednesday.

Juniors Lacey Hawthorne, Anne Neville and Reyna Walters are all running for the office that has been previously filled by only one woman, Patricia Wallace in 1985.

Two male candidates, juniors Charlie Roederer and Danny Siegle, are also running for student body president.

The three female candidates acknowledged the novelty of three women in the

campaign but said they were convinced the change was a positive one.

"I think it's incredible that three women are running," Neville said. "Sure, it's unprecedented, but it reflects change at the University. This is a great piece of history."

Walters said she was surprised when she heard three women were running because a woman had not run for the office since she's been at UNC.

"I've had a lot of people tell me it's about time to have a woman in office," she said. "With three women running, we're making up for the past this year."

Hawthorne, on the other hand, said this year's situation just had to happen. "With women making up 60 percent of the student body population, it was inevitable that we would end up in this situation," she said. "I think it's great it happened this year."

The elections leading up to this year haven't always been so friendly to female candidates.

Although women were indeed admitted to the University in 1898, they were

"I think it's incredible that three women are running. Sure, it's unprecedented, but it reflects change at the University."

ANNE NEVILLE

Student body president candidate

only admitted as junior transfers or professional students. After the University admitted the first class of female undergrads in 1965, women began entering in large numbers.

Women began to take leadership roles in many campus organizations, and in 1985 Wallace was elected the first female student body president.

Wallace, now a professor of English at the University of Miami, said she remembered little gender discrimination during her administration.

She said she remembered women being helping to lead many campus

organizations but that the student body presidency was "the one quirk."

"The women I knew were very interested in doing a job and fighting for a cause. The office of the student body president was less well-defined and more of a politico position," Wallace said.

"It reflects well on the women of North Carolina that they have wanted to do something meaningful rather than see their picture in the newspaper every day."

Since Wallace's presidency, women have run for the office, but none have won. The last female candidate was Stacey Brandenburg, who was defeated by Calvin Cunningham in 1994.

This year's female candidates all held positions in Student Body President Mo Nathan's cabinet before resigning to run for office. Neville was student body secretary, Hawthorne was an executive assistant and Walters was the Human Relations Committee co-chairwoman.

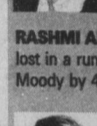
Nathan said the trio had added a lot of ideas, energy and enthusiasm to his administration.

The women who ran

Until this year, female student body president candidates have been rare. Only one has beaten male politicians to win a seat in the highest student office.



PATRICIA WALLACE, 1985, is the only woman ever elected.



RASHMI ATRAN, 1992, lost in a runoff to John Moody by 43 votes.



STACEY BRANDENBERG, 1995, lost by 420 votes to Calvin Cunningham.

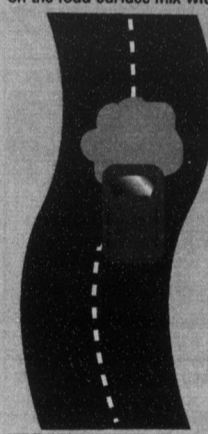
The female candidates said they were unsure of the impact three women run-

SEE WOMEN, PAGE 11

Avoiding water hazards

Driving in heavy rain can be hazardous. Here are some tips to make sure your car stays on the road:

Be very careful during the 30 minutes after rain begins; grime and oil on the road surface mix with rain to make the road slippery.



Slow down to increase the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead to at least 4 car lengths.

If your car does hydroplane:

1. Take your foot off the accelerator
2. Do NOT brake!
3. Avoid steering changes if possible
4. Hold the wheel firmly until your tires grip the road again

Remember, driving through water must be done at a slow and steady speed.

SOURCE: ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DTH/ELISSA KOMANSKY

OWASA contends with heavy rains

BY ANGELA LEA
STAFF WRITER

While the recent deluge of rain has some N.C. counties flooded, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority is flooded with potential problems and extra work.

OWASA spokesman Vic Simpson said the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant in Carrboro received 2.42 inches of rain between Monday and Wednesday.

Brian Potter, staff meteorologist at the N.C. State Climate Office, said the average amount of rainfall for the month of January at Raleigh-Durham International airport was 3.48 inches. Therefore, the 2.42-inch total is more than 10 times the amount expected in a two-day span.

The excessive rain caused three sewage spills on Tuesday, Simpson said.

A 150-gallon spill occurred at the Countryside sewage station on Kenmore Drive. Infiltration of the sewer system by storm water also caused a 2,400 gallon overflow from a manhole on Lakeshore Drive and a 9,150 gallon leak from a manhole in the Markham Drive/Daley Road area, Simpson said.

Markham Drive resident Alan Dillon said he experienced some of the effects of the overflow. "It smelled kind of funny in the house," he said. "The overflow" wasn't really unexpected, but I don't know if (OWASA) did enough advance work."

Katie Kalb, general manager of operations at OWASA, said the agency took precautions before the rain started. "We don't just inspect and repair before major rains. It's a continuous process."

Simpson said OWASA had been watchful of potential flooding and overflows in the past few days. "There were crews out literally all night on Tuesday, watching the manholes and trying to get

the water out," he said. Simpson said storm water could cause serious problems even after it reached the plant. Extra water coming in to be treated can overload the system and cause the waste to be handled less effectively, he said.

But Kalb said while the problems OWASA had faced were serious, they had been handled well and had not yet required the assistance of Orange County Emergency Services.

Nick Waters, director of emergency services for Orange County, said his organization would become involved only if flooding impeded traffic or if evacuation became necessary.

Simpson said he was not sure how much more rain would have to fall before emergency assistance intervened.

Dillon said despite the problems the sewage overflow near his house caused, he was taking the weather in stride. "I'm just drinking bottled water and waiting for things to get better."

Inclement weather isn't dampening construction
See Page 2

Up all night

■ Students pulling the late shift at Granville Towers often witness crazy events.

BY MELANIE FLOYD
STAFF WRITER

Minutes tick by and the world seems asleep until a group of boisterous students bust through the doors keeping the attendant at one of the Granville Towers desks from falling asleep.

It may seem crazy to have to report to work at 4 a.m., but a few students who work the front desk find it is the best time to work.

"Typically nothing happens," said Michelle Matthews, who works the Granville Towers East desk late Thursday nights.

"At 4 to 8 a.m., usually I just sit

there and do my homework. It's a time when I can get a lot of work done because it's quiet," Matthews explained.

Although quiet is the status quo, every now and then the desk attendants encounter unusual and somewhat off-the-wall incidents.

"I remember one time this guy wandered in and didn't think that I should be working the desk alone. He said he would give me \$200 if I would leave and never come back," said Matthews, a sophomore from Wilmington.

"Then he changed his mind and said I had to do something else to get it," Matthews recalled.

"He filled out the check and gave it to me, but I gave it back to him. He probably found that check the next day and didn't know what it was. He was pretty drunk."

Claudia McClinton, a senior from Charlotte, has seen a lot of interesting

happenings during the time she has worked the late shifts for all three of the Granville Towers' desks.

"I've seen people get sick. I've seen people basically about to pass out. I've seen a whole lot of drunk people," McClinton said.

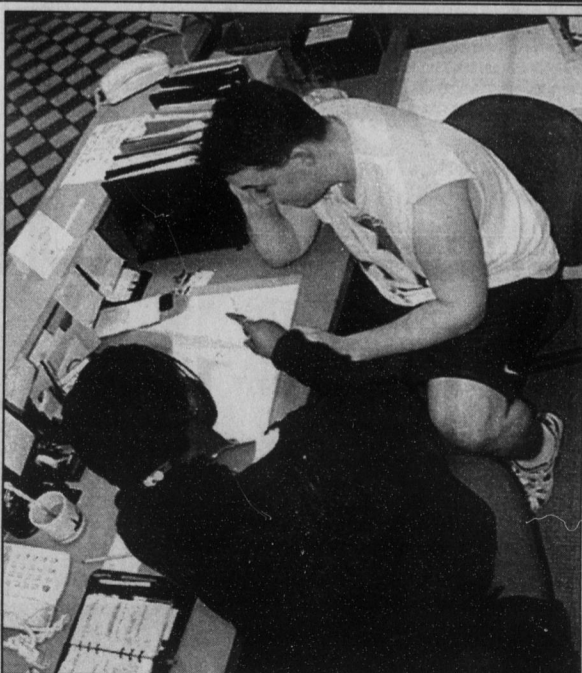
But sometimes more happens late at night than the occasional drunk stumbler. McClinton has witnessed theft as well as humiliating Greek rush activities.

"I was working one night, and I

SEE NIGHTLIFE, PAGE 11

To pass the time while working the graveyard shift at the Granville Towers West desk, Claudia McClinton seeks help with her homework from Brian Gaster early Wednesday morning.

PHOTO BY DANA GARDNER



INSIDE Thursday

Stuck in the middle



Body piercings and tattoos are the rage among

people of all ages. Diversions explores these decorations, regarded as items of art and controversy. Page 5

Tar Heels dump Tigers

The UNC men's basketball team beat Clemson for the 44th straight time in Chapel Hill on Wednesday. Page 13

Today's weather

Mostly sunny; mid 50s
Friday: Partly sunny; low 50s

I don't like strident women.

Margaret Thatcher