

# Candidate Proposes Leash-Free Zone

By JENNY STEPP  
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill dog owners might have a new place to bring their pets, if Town Council candidate Bill Strom has his way.

Strom held a press conference Tuesday to announce his proposal to use a portion of the Nunn Mountain property, located off Piney Mountain Road, as a designated leash-free zone for dogs.

"Dog ownership builds community," Strom said. "Chapel Hill needs to create places where people can come together and share interests."

Town Manager Cal Horton said Chapel Hill's leash laws state that owners must keep their dogs either on leashes or under their direct control at all times. The town has had no leash-free areas since unleashed dogs were banned from the Merritt Pasture area last spring.

The Nunn Mountain land is owned by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. Because the land is owned by OWASA, Strom is proposing that the Town Council petition OWASA to dedicate the land to the city of Chapel Hill, a plan for which he says OWASA has indicated preliminary support.

"I've gotten a tremendous amount of encouragement," Strom said. "It's the subtle amenities that make Chapel Hill an exceptional place to live."

Strom said the Orange County Joint Master Recreation and Parks Plan Work Group, which he has been involved

with, looked into alternative recreational uses for some of OWASA's property.

Strom made a similar proposal to the town council on April 12 - a suggestion the Town Council turned down, citing special use permit violations.

Strom claims this time around will be different, primarily because his previous proposal that the Nunn Mountain property be added to the public space inventory did not specifically ask that the land be turned into a leash-free zone, which would not violate the environmental protection language of the permit.

Strom plans to put fences around the designated leash-free area and build a small gravel parking lot. He claims these changes would neither disturb the existing environment nor become a significant cost to taxpayers.

Council member Lee Pavao was especially concerned about the reaction of nearby residents to such a plan, referring to the Merritt Pasture controversy earlier in the year.

"It's one thing to make a proposal, it's another to see how the community reacts," Pavao said. "It's a wonderful idea, but it hasn't been flushed out yet."

But Strom said he was optimistic about focusing on the continuing issue of improved "quality of life" in Chapel Hill.

"It's time for some generosity from neighborhood to neighborhood."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.



Town Council candidate Bill Strom, with his dog Torie, discusses a plan to allow unleashed dogs on part of the Nunn Mountain property.

# Aldermen Set Sights On Carrboro's Future

Downtown revitalization is one of several goals that Carrboro officials included in a 20-year town plan.

By MAC HEFFNER  
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen said it was looking toward the future and adopted a proposal Tuesday night that would address planning for the town's new long-range issues.

The plan, called 2020 Vision, will replace the year 2000 task force that has been in place since 1989. The new plan will focus on development, amenities, transportation and economic development in Carrboro.

The aldermen took those four points from the year 2000 document as a starting point for the 2020 Vision project.

"The goals (of 2020) don't have to be identical," alderman Allen Spalt said. "But they have to be consistent."

Falling under the amenities category were parks and recreation, arts and culture and human services.

The development category included topics such as public health and safety, preservation of the natural environment and retaining the small-town character name.

Economic development included plans to revitalize the downtown area and work on new commercial growth.



Carrboro Alderman Alex Zaffron said planning future town goals should include the voice of residents.

The transportation project called for improving public mass transit, along with bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Before the board adopted the project, Mayor Mike Nelson made three changes in the proposal.

The first was to initiate brain-storming sessions with the public. Nelson also asked that additions to the document be allowed as needed.

Third, he asked that the number of board members on the project be increased from one to two members of the public.

The aldermen also set a target date of January 31, 2000, for a timeline to be in place for the 20-year project.

Alderman Alex Zaffron added that the goals defined by the board should be included with goals of the people in the community.

"Our goals should be used as a point of reference," he said. "It should not limit our future plans."

Alderman Hilliard Caldwell said the board needed to consider the financial aspects before proceeding.

"We have to look at what the people want this community to look like in twenty years," he said. "But you have to look at when we do it and how much it will cost."

Before adjourning, the aldermen suggested that several dates be set up for the public to give feedback about the new 2020 Vision.

Alderman Diana McDuffee said the group meetings should not conflict, so people could give input into more than just one area of the project.

While the Jan. 31 target date for the project time line was set, the aldermen agreed it was an aggressive deadline that could be adjusted if more time was needed to plan the project.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

# Student Group Helps Release Prisoner

By JENNIFER HEFFERNAN  
Staff Writer

After 12 years of sending letters to the Syrian government, UNC's Amnesty International Group 84 can finally celebrate the release of political prisoner Nabil Ibrahim.

Amy Batchelor, case coordinator for Ibrahim, and Amanda Tuten, the group's president, said they could trace their efforts resulting in Ibrahim's release to an unlikely source - the music group U2.

"We all grew up listening to U2 albums," Tuten said. "In the lyric books,

it'll say 'support Amnesty International' and it gives the addresses for the United States and Ireland."

Since 1987, students have been making appeals to Syrian government officials.

At a meeting Monday night, Amnesty members celebrated Ibrahim's release with a ceremonial cake.

"I think that being in Amnesty is a really worthwhile thing to do," Tuten said. "A lot of times it seems really tedious. In over 12 years, we heard once that (Ibrahim) was alive."

Ibrahim, who was released last week, was imprisoned for 15 years because he

had distributed pamphlets and belonged to the Syrian Party for Communist Action, Tuten said.

According to Amnesty's web-site, these prisoners are "people who are detained anywhere for their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, color, language, national or social origin, economic status or birth and who have not used or advocated violence."

"A big part of Amnesty is that the expression of these people's beliefs has to be nonviolent," Tuten said.

Now that Ibrahim is free, the group's main focus is a campaign to help nine Chinese workers receive a fair trial.

The men are currently being held in China's Hengyang Prison and were involved in the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising, said Treasurer Robin Anderson.

With more than 1 million members in over 160 countries, Amnesty International thrives on supporters' involvement.

At UNC, members discuss human rights violations and undertake letter-writing campaigns.

"There are other things we can do, but our group is very small," Batchelor said. "We hope to expand to bigger things."

Getting involved in a stranger's life had its benefits, Tuten said.

"Just that feeling of knowing you contributed in some way to getting this man released - it's just a really good feeling."

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

## Campus Calendar

### Today

noon - The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will hold "Going Natural," a showcase of hairstyles. The discussion, which is part of the group's "Around the Circle" series will be held in the BCC.

1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. - The Center for Teaching and Learning will present "Using Student Learning Outcomes as the Basis of Course Planning," a Foundations in Teaching Workshop for Instructors in Union 205-206.

To register, call 966-1289 or e-mail ctd@unc.edu.

2 p.m. - Stuart Rojstaczer will read from his new book "Gone for Good."

Tales of University Life After the Golden Age," in the Bull's Head Bookshop at Student Stores.

The event is free and open to the public.

5 p.m. - The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws will hold its first meeting of the year in Union 205.

5:30 p.m. - The Black Student Movement will hold a resume writing workshop in Upendo Lounge above Chase Hall in preparation for the Minority Career Night on Sept. 29.

The workshop is facilitated by Marian Holmes, a representative of University Career Services.

5:30 p.m. - Student night at the Newman Catholic Student Center will be a picnic at Professor George Lensing's house.

Meet at the Newman Center for rides.

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Souljourn will host a self-defense seminar at the Student Recreation Center. The seminar will be led by seventh-degree black belt master S.P. Sully.

7:30 p.m. - The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will hold a BCC Ambassadors interest meeting.

8 p.m. - The class of 2000 will hold an information session for those with questions or concerns about the senior class gift.

For more information, call Minesh Patel at 962-5608.

### Thursday

noon to 1 p.m. - The Trial Law Academy will sponsor the Mock Trial Competition, which is open to teams of graduate and undergraduate students. Knowledge of technical legal issues is not required. Interested teams should register at the School of Law on Ridge Road.

3 p.m. - Merle Black, ASA G. Chandler Professor of Politics and Government at Emory University, will speak on "Politics in the Modern South: Race, Religion, Gender and Income" in Gerrard Hall.

3:30 p.m. - Carol Mavor, associate professor of art, will read from her new book, "Becoming: The Photographs of Clementina, Viscountess Hawarden," at the Bull's Head Bookshop at Student Stores as part of the Faculty Unplugged series.

5 p.m. - This is the deadline for submissions to The Catalyst magazine, which is accepting opinion pieces, essays, personal narratives, fiction, poetry, photography and artwork.

For more information, call Meagan Patterson at 933-1082.

5:45 p.m. - Acoustic Christian artist Claire Holley will be performing at the Battle House located on Battle Lane behind Kenan Residence Hall in the Baptist Student Union.

7 p.m. - Students for the Advancement of Race Relations, a Campus Y committee, will hold a general interest meeting at the Campus Y building.

For more information, call Jermain Reeves at 914-3404.

7:30 p.m. - The Pre-Physical Therapy or Pre-Occupational Therapy Club will hold an interest meeting in 304 Woollen Gym.

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