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WTO Protesters Post Resolution at Town Hall

By JENNY STEPP
Staff Writer

Chanting "Stop WTO!" nearly 100 students and community members gathered in front of the Chapel Hill Post Office on Tuesday night to condemn the World Trade Organization.

The rally was organized in coordination with an international day of action against the WTO by members of the Anti-WTO Organization, a group formed four weeks ago by representatives from several UNC student organizations. The Geneva-based WTO is meeting in Seattle this week with international delegates.

"As Americans, we value so much the democratic elections of the people who represent us in government," said sophomore Mary Bratsch, a member of the group.

"The WTO can undermine those democratically elected bodies and the laws they make with a single stroke of the pen," she said.

The WTO, which was formed in 1995 and claims 135 member nations, is a group of nonelected men who make decisions on free trade. The organization has the ability to override the democratic legislation of its member nations, including the United States.

Several individuals from University organizations spoke, including junior Todd Pughatch, a member of Students for Economic Justice. He spoke to the group about sweatshops and the WTO's role in maintaining economic disparities in the international arena. "They're suffering everyday because of the free-



DTH/KATHERINE EAKER

Carrboro resident Seth Elliott, left, waits to join students and community members in a march from the post office to the Chapel Hill Town Hall to post a resolution against the World Trade Organization. According to the protesters, the WTO participates in "undemocratic practices and policies."

trade rhetoric, and we've got to keep fighting that," he said.

After the speakers concluded, the group marched to Chapel Hill Town Hall, where they posted their resolution

and chanted, "Just Say No to the WTO!" and "People Before Profits! Stop Picking Our Pockets!"

The resolution calls for the Town Council of products manufactured in

Burma, to officially condemn the WTO and urge the federal government to cease all negotiations with the organization. The WTO issue hits especially close to home for Chapel Hill and

Carrboro residents because of town ordinances that ban the purchase country controlled by a military dictatorship.

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Police Call For Safety On Campus

DPS Director Derek Poarch says Manning Drive is one of the main hazardous areas on campus for pedestrians.

By BETH O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

With heightened campus concern about pedestrian safety, University officials have taken a step toward beefing up safety measures for pedestrians and motorists on campus.

During a Tuesday meeting, University counsel Susan Ehringhaus and Director of Public Safety Derek Poarch were joined by members of the N.C. Department of Transportation to discuss preliminary measures to ensure pedestrian safety.

The push for greater safety measures follows the death of Dr. Fusayoshi Matsukawa, a postdoctoral dental fellow who was struck by a car Nov. 4. Since August, there have been four on-campus accidents between vehicles and pedestrians.

Faculty, staff and students will cross the dangerous intersections and pedestrian accident sites on campus today at 12:15 p.m. to demand the installation of more safety devices such as traffic lights.

Protesters will meet on the steps of the School of Dentistry, and from there will cross the Manning Drive crosswalk and follow a route across other trouble campus spots. The walk will conclude with a South Building rally.

Poarch said Tuesday that he would like to form a small working group to present ideas to prevent further accidents. Poarch said no details had been finalized.

"We want to ensure that the tragedy that happened on campus this month won't ever happen again," Poarch said.

Poarch cited South Road, Manning Drive and South Columbia Street as particularly high-risk areas. He also remarked on the campaign that Public Safety initiated in January and the improvements that have been made since the spring semester.

Citations, squads situated for speed enforcement, and warning signs were all a part of the pedestrian safety campaign. Poarch said the initial signs ask-

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Law Targets Underage Drinkers

A statute that goes into effect today carries harsher penalties for 19- and 20-year-olds who drink.

By DEEPIKA NARASIMHAN
Staff Writer

As of today, 19- and 20-year-old underage drinkers will have a harder time finding alcohol providers and escaping a permanent criminal record.

Lawmakers hope to curb underage drinking with two more stringent alcohol laws going into effect throughout the state. The laws, approved by the N.C. General Assembly in July, increase punishments for 19- and 20-year-old underage drinkers and create new penalties for adults who provide alcohol to underage drinkers.

Starting today, all underage drinkers can expect up to a \$200 fine and a criminal record. Before, 19- and 20-year-olds faced only a noncriminal infraction and a \$25 fine, said Jane Cousins, spokeswoman for the Chapel Hill Police Department.

The second law establishes a first-offense penalty of no less than \$250 and 25 hours of community service for adults who provide alcohol to anyone younger than 21. Repeat offenders will be punished with a minimum \$500 fine and 150 hours of community service.

This law includes vendors, such as bars. Ajay Chaudhari, a bartender at Goodfellows, said he felt the punishment fit the crime despite any use of fake identifications. "If it is a fake ID and the bartender was just careless, then by all means, the fine is fair," he said.

Additional provisions in the second law include an initial penalty of at least a \$500 fine and 25 hours of community service for aiding and abetting an underage drinker. Repeat offenses are punishable by no less than a \$1,000 fine and 150 hours of community service.

The first provision was sponsored by Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, to close a loophole in state law that allowed 19-

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The Home State Advantage

Leaders: N.C. Ties Will Help New UNC Chancellor

By LANI HARAC
Staff Writer

For many North Carolina leaders, a connection with the state is one of the most important qualities to consider when choosing a new chancellor for UNC-Chapel Hill.

As the University looks to replace the late Michael Hooker, state leaders have said the Chancellor Search Committee should weigh a candidate's familiarity with the state at least as much as his or her ability to get the job done.

"It takes from three to five years for a stranger to get to understand the process - the daily procedures. That's a big burden to put on someone," said Bill Friday, UNC-system president from 1956 to 1986. Friday was N.C.-raised, and he has lived in Chapel Hill

for the last 45 years. "There's a strong feeling here now to find someone who appreciates the way the state works, who re-establishes the primacy of the University,"

Friday said. During his tenure as president, Friday appointed William Aycock (who served as chancellor from 1957 to 1966), J. Carlyle Citizen (1966-1972), and N. Ferebee Taylor (1972-1980) as UNC-CH chancellors. All were North Carolinians, and all were well-known within the state.

"I made those choices simply because I think that's an important factor when dealing with a public institution," he said.

"A 11 things

being equal, I would go with a North Carolinian."

Paul Hardin, who served as chancellor of the University from 1988 to 1995, said being familiar with the state helped him when he took the position.

Hardin also grew up in North Carolina, although he lived out of state for some time.

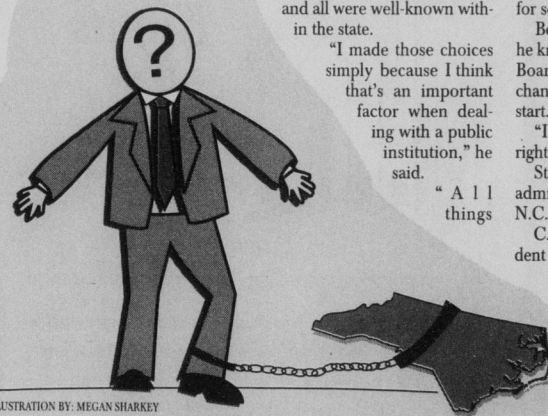
Because of his background, he said he knew at least half the people on the Board of Trustees when he became chancellor, which gave him a running start.

"I left, but when I came back I felt right at home," Hardin said.

State leaders stressed that while administrative skills were important, N.C. ties could make the difference.

C.D. Spangler, UNC-system president from 1986 to 1998, was born and raised in North Carolina and attended UNC-CH as an undergraduate. He said someone familiar with the state would have a better understanding of its heritage and traditions and would therefore be on

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Faculty Seek to Shorten Semester Length

By MATTHEW SMITH
Staff Writer

Students griping that they start school too early, have to stay too long or have too little time to prepare for their final examinations

might soon have an ally in the Educational Policy Committee.

Although no formal proposals or recommendations have been made, the committee is assessing the impacts of having the current 150-day school year, nine more days than the 1996-97 calendar term.

The term length was increased in

1997-98 by former UNC-system President C. D. Spangler who argued that students needed extra time to learn.

But informal evidence collected by the committee suggested that the lengthened term was predominantly detrimental to nearly all aspects of University academics, said Boone Turchi, committee chairman and economics professor.

"By and large, faculty I talk to think the length is really too long," he said. "I would guess our semester is one of the largest." He argued that because students started school in August, internship opportunities and summer jobs were limited or curtailed.

Freshman business major Howie Tat said he lost his summer job because he had to leave for school so early. "I

worked on a blueberry farm, and the peak season isn't until mid-late August," he said. "My employer thought it would be more efficient to just hire someone else for August since I had to leave so early, and I couldn't find another job."

Turchi said the longer term had also affected the ability of University professors to be effective scholars, a serious loss at a research university.

"From a professional point of view we have less time to devote to research," he said. "We have to attend conferences by missing classes. The situation is sub-optimal." The committee plans to make a formal recommendation by the end of the academic year, Turchi said.

Student Body President Nic Heinke said he had also put the systemwide

issue before the Association of Student Governments.

University Registrar David Lanier said that making up the school schedule became more difficult in longer years, with reading days squeezed in before exams. He said he would prefer a schedule that allowed for variation from year to year. Turchi said the longer year had negatively affected exam schedules.

"The exam period is so crushed. (In the spring) we have reading days after exams. Some exams are offered at 7 p.m. on Saturdays. Many students will have three exams in one day. That's a horrible way to end a semester."

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

Carolina, Speak Out!
A weekly DTH online poll
Where will you be for New Year's Eve 2000?
Go to www.unc.edu/dth to cast your vote.

INSIDE
Wednesday

Keeping Tabs

Probation Officer George Harrison patrols the northern portion of Orange County, keeping tabs on his charges and helping them to find their way back into society. Harrison deals with drug abuse and crimes such as breaking and entering, larceny and assault with intent to kill. See Page 5.

Tipping Off

North Carolina's men's basketball team opens its home season with No. 8 Michigan State tonight at 9 p.m. The Tar Heels are ranked second in the country after capturing the Maui Invitational tournament last week. See Page 13.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Low 40s.
Thursday: Sunny,
High 50s.

One revolution is like one cocktail, it just gets you organized for the next.

Will Rogers