

Town Might Lose Spot in Triangle

Local officials say a change in Chapel Hill's status could damage the relationship between local governments.

By COURTNEY WEILL
Senior Writer

Mention of the Triangle conjures up images of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill in most N.C. residents' minds.

But after the 2000 census, bureaucrats in the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C., might remove Chapel Hill from the metropolitan region.

Though the town could lose name recognition on Capitol Hill, area leaders foresee little harm to Chapel Hill's economy and well-being.

Areas with dense populations are considered Metropolitan Statistical Areas by the federal government, said Joel Harper, director of the Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce. Chapel Hill belongs to the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill MSA.

"Based on how we think our population has changed in the last 10 years, it looks like the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill MSA may split and Raleigh will become its own MSA and Durham and Chapel Hill another MSA," Harper said.

Though no changes will be made until the census data is in, Harper said the name of the MSA would change and Chapel Hill would drop out of the title.

However, the town would still be considered part of the MSA.

"What we lose is the prestige or image that comes with being in a MSA,"

Harper said. "You hate to have the name out of recognition but bureaucrats are the only ones who see (the official MSA names)."

Chapel Hill would still receive the valuable federal funding given to communities that are part of MSAs, Harper said.

Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Downtown Commission, said he worried the new classification could diminish future work between the area's sprawling communities.

"One of the things an awful lot of folks in Chapel Hill and Durham hope will happen in the new millennium is that we'll all start working together and do more regional planning because what happens in Durham affects Chapel Hill and vice versa," he said.

"By us being excluded by the census, it will further put off that cooperation that is so important."

But Town Council member Joyce Brown insisted that no matter what happens in the future, Chapel Hill would be able to stand its own ground.

"It is very evident that we are certainly an important part of the Triangle community," Brown said, noting that the Town Council had not discussed the issue.

In fact, Humphreys said he thought that Chapel Hill would always draw attention in the state whether it was included in the new MSA or not.

"Everybody always knows where Chapel Hill is," he said.

"People who don't know where Raleigh and Durham are know where Chapel Hill is."

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

New Looks, Tastes Hit Downtown

Spanky's is slated to reopen next week, while Wicked Burrito has apparently shut its doors permanently.

By SARAH BRIER
Staff Writer

As the interest in downtown Chapel Hill grows, many local businesses are revamping their stores and restaurants in an attempt to keep regulars coming back and to attract new faces.

Robert Humphreys, the executive director of the Downtown Commission, said these recent renovations reflected the vibrancy of the downtown district.

"I think its saying what we tell people all the time about the economic viability of Chapel Hill," he said. "Owners are reinvesting in their businesses."

While many restaurants are undergoing changes, the reasons for change vary.

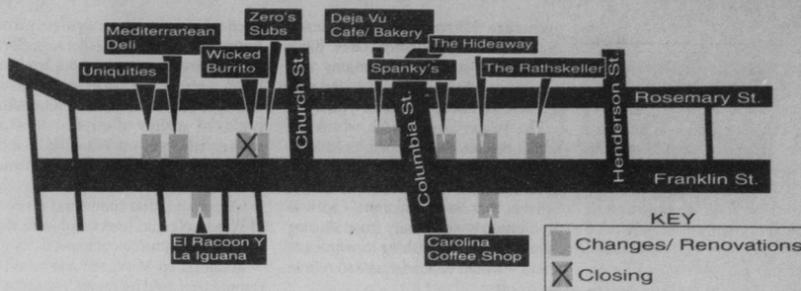
"Older restaurants like the Rathskeller and the Carolina Coffee Shop are dedicated to old traditions," Humphreys said. "While its going to be different, they aren't going to change everything."

Greg Owens, owner of the Carolina Coffee Shop, the Owens 501 Diner and the Broadstreet Diner in Durham, said he wanted to keep the same traditions in the Carolina Coffee Shop, the oldest continuously named restaurant in the Triangle since 1922.

"The major things we're doing are the plumbing, electrical, making the

The Changing Face of Downtown Chapel Hill

To keep up with Chapel Hill's diverse clientele, local businesses and restaurants are changing their appearances and their menus. Although some renovations have taken longer than others and some restaurants are permanently closed, they reflect the area's evolving business district.



SOURCE: ROBERT HUMPHREYS

DTH/MEGAN SHARKEY

bathrooms American Disabilities Act compliant and improving the kitchen floors, walls and ceilings," he said.

There was speculation about the coffee shop becoming a sports bar but Owens said that was not the case. He said the only major change he was making was adding an affordable blue plate special to the menu.

"We are still having classical music playing, the same booths and the same pictures on the walls," he said.

Tony Sustaita, owner of The Hideaway, which was formerly known as Havana, said they renovated the restaurant with an emphasis on the menu and a less-serious atmosphere.

"The Hideaway serves a wider variety and a more traditional selection of food with a Southwestern flair," he said. "It is no longer Cuban."

Sustaita said he hoped the wider variety would allow larger groups to visit more often, especially students.

"We changed the decor a little bit and the menu drastically," he said. "Havana's religious customers are disappointed right now, but the food wasn't something they'd eat every week."

Spanky's, a 22-year-old tradition on East Franklin Street, has been under

construction for 6 1/2 months for both menu and structural changes. Now, with a new staff, new kitchen and physical changes, Mickey Ewell, one of Spanky's seven owners, said he looked forward to reopening next Wednesday.

"There is a more open feeling," Ewell said. "It is still turn of the century with more of a bistro feel."

Another reason for renovations relates to the general growth of Chapel Hill's downtown district.

"There is more interest in downtown than in recent years," Ewell said. "We own 411 and Squid's as well, and we want to attract similar clientele."

Sustaita and Owens both agreed that December was a good time for renova-

tions. "We are shut down for a week and students are gone," Sustaita said. "We have to close to renovate but still have to pay rent and this way we lose less business."

In addition to some restaurants undergoing major overhauls, the Wicked Burrito posted a closed sign in front of the restaurant. Officials from the eatery were not available for comment.

Other businesses around town have also made minor renovations to try to bring in new customers in addition to their loyal customers.

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

Do you suffer from cold sores?

If so, then you may be just who we're looking for. We are conducting a paid (\$350) research study of an investigational medication for the treatment and possible prevention of cold sore lesions. You must be 12 years of age or older (with parental consent, if appropriate), and in good general health to participate. You do not need to have a cold sore now to qualify.

If interested, please contact:
Susan or Heather at 966-0029
University of North Carolina's Hospital

DO YOUR OWN THINKING

Academia encourages college students to "Think for yourselves." Are college students intellectually courageous enough to consider for themselves what the Bible teaches? God says, "Come now, and let us reason together..." Isaiah 1:18.

Hear the Bible taught at...
Calvary Baptist Church
1000 West Main Street, Carrboro, NC • 942-2653
E-mail: notashamedch@juno.com

Low-Fat Featuring Authentic

OREO COOKIE

If you're crazy about our Oreo Cookie yogurt maybe you'd like an Oreo Shake, an Oreo Flurry, or a delicious Oreo Pie with Oreo Crust!

Downtown Chapel Hill
106 W. Franklin St.
(Next to He's Not Here)
942-PUMP

North Durham
Northgate Mall
(Next to Carousel)
286-7868

Oreo, Oreo, Give Me Some Moreo!

the YOGURT pump

HOURS: Mon-Sat 11:30am-11:30pm, Sun 12pm-11:30pm

We're a textbook example of why the Internet is so handy.

We realize we don't have to waste your time explaining the virtues of the Internet. Let's just say that at VarsityBooks.com we've made the most of it.

Not only can you save up to 40% on your textbooks, but you'll also receive them in just one to three business days.

All on a Web site that's completely reliable and secure. What more do you need to know?

Savings off distributor's suggested price. Books delivered in no more than three business days. Some restrictions apply. See site for details.

SAVE UP TO 40% ON TEXTBOOKS.



VarsityBooks.com