

Campus Calendar

Today

7:30 p.m. - **Habitat for Humanity Honduras** will hold a meeting in 101 Greenlaw Hall.

Thursday

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - **"Unity Through Dance"** will be held at Ehringhaus Residence Hall.

There will be dances instructed by Opeyol, Sangam, CHispA, Kamikaze and Campus Connection.

Those that attend can learn dances, grab food and then dance at the after-party, which will last until midnight.

6 p.m. - **The Queer Network for Change** will hold its general body meeting in 206 Dey Hall. There will be free food and entertainment. Everyone welcome to attend.

6:15pm - **The UNC-CH Journal of Social Science and History** will hold its weekly meetings in Union 108.

Those interested in joining the staff can attend the meeting or submit a paper or thesis to be considered for publishing by sending an attached Word document to Mital Gondha at mitgon@email.unc.edu.

Friday

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. - **The Senior Ball** semi-formal will be held in the George Watts Hall Alumni Center.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any senior marshal, in the Pit Monday through Friday, at www.unc.edu/students/orgs/seniors or at the door. Underclassmen are welcome.

Interest of Interest

■ The Department of Dramatic Art Studio 1 will present **The Country Wife** at 8:15 p.m. Friday through Monday, at 4 p.m. March 6 and at 5 p.m. March 7 at the Playmakers Theatre on Cameron Avenue.

For more information, call 962-PLAY.

■ Those with a service idea and need grant money to initiate the plan can apply for the **APPLES Social Entrepreneurship Program** and earn grant money and three hours of service-learning academic credit.

New and existing student-designed organizations are eligible. Applications are available at the APPLES office and Union desk and are due March 24.

For the Record

The Tuesday article titled "Police Seek Suspects in Shooting" had an incorrect headline called "Gotham." The nightclub Gotham has no connection to the Sunday incident in which a man was shot in the arm by a still-identified assailant. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

Board Passes \$40 Million in Bonds

By **SABINE HIRSCHAUER**
Staff Writer

A \$40 million county bond sale that will fund local schools, parks and public buildings was adopted unanimously at Tuesday's Orange County Board of Commissioners meeting.

County officials said the sale of county bonds was a widely used financing instrument for local government.

"The issuance of bonds is a very common practice," Commissioner Barry Jacobs said. "Our area experiences (financial) pressure on the local housing, school and our recreational market from the people who are moving here. And we are just reacting to this pressure with the bond sale."

Ken Chavious, director of the Orange County Finance Department, pointed to the financial advantages bond sales rep-

resent for any government.

"Since the interest on the bonds are tax exempt, bonds are the cheapest way for a government to borrow money," Chavious said.

The county will start offering bonds in April on the investment market and will designate the revenue to various purposes.

The county has allocated \$34.5 million for local schools, \$2.83 million for parks and \$2.845 million for improvements on public buildings.



Chairman **Moses Carey** said he was pleased with the outcome of the unanimous vote Tuesday night.

Jacobs said the county estimated the administrative costs for the bond issuance to be between \$35,000 and \$50,000, which will be paid out of county funds.

He addressed the county's concern regarding the future payoff of the bonds and the payoff's effect on county residents, citing a possible tax increase.

"We are trying to keep the tax rise close to zero, but this is way too early to tell if this will be possible for us to do long term," Jacobs said. "The bond sale will definitely have an impact on the increase of the county's expenditures."

Chavious said he opposed raising taxes to cover the cost of the bond sale.

"During the referendum in November of 1997, the people in the county authorized the sale of a total of \$56 million in bonds with the understanding that this year's \$40 million

bond sale will not raise taxes," Chavious said. "Next year, when we sell the remaining \$16 million in bonds, we will have to raise taxes."

Jacobs and Chavious emphasized the bonds were being used for a multitude of community projects.

"The money will be used, for example, for the Chapel Hill Homestead Park, for the new Smith Middle School and to finish East Chapel Hill High School," Jacobs said.

Chairman Moses Carey said he was pleased about the unanimous vote of the board.

"With the bond sale approved, we are now able to pursue items which were in the planning stage for a number of years."

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

Deadline Approaching on Housing Funds

By **JOSEPH PARDINGTON**
Staff Writer

With the deadline to snag federal funds fast approaching, the Orange County Board of Commissioners discussed affordable housing plans at a public hearing Tuesday in Chapel Hill.

All communities receiving federal funds, such as Community Development Block Grants and HOME, must submit a plan that outlines how the money will be spent. HOME and CDBG are funds dedicated to providing affordable housing for local residents.

The Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs in Orange County is a new 5-year plan that must be submitted for approval to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by

May 15 for funding to be awarded.

"Because the five-year plan is expiring, we need to develop a new plan," said Tara Finks, housing director of Orange County.

HOME activities eligible for federal funding include land acquisition, new construction, housing renovation and rental assistance.

The plan details the housing needs of very low income, low income and moderate income families and special population groups. It also outlines the strate-



Commissioner **Alice Gordon** said long-term housing should be the focus in Orange County.

gies for addressing those needs.

There are three parts to the housing plan - a housing, homeless, community and economic development needs assessment; a housing market analysis; and long-term strategies to meet priority needs.

Orange County Commissioner Alice Gordon said the plan was only part of the story.

"This is only one piece of the puzzle. The more important piece is figuring out long-term housing," she said.

Pat Connolly, housing administrator with the Orange Person Chatham Area Program, requested \$180,000 from HOME funds. She said the \$60,000 allocated by the housing department was not enough and those with mental illness and substance abuse problems could not afford housing in this area.

"The poorest of the poor need the

most help," she said. "Unfortunately, they usually get the least."

Robert Dowling, executive director for Orange Community Housing Corporation, requested \$60,000 to repair housing for older residents and \$160,000 for 32 townhomes in Meadowmont from federal funds.

"The private sector is simply not building the type of housing we need," he said.

Maxecine Mitchell of EmPOWERment Inc. requested \$100,000 in funds for family housing in the Pine Knolls neighborhood and \$200,000 for affordable housing in Carboro and the community.

"We help family reduce the cost of housing."

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March 1 5:00pm

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