

# Museum Axes Request for Town Money

By **THERESA CHEN**  
Staff Writer

A local museum has withdrawn a portion of its request for aid, forcing the Chapel Hill Town Council to postpone making a decision on the issue.

The Chapel Hill Museum's board of trustees introduced a proposal Jan. 24 requesting assistance from the Town Council. The proposal asked the council to provide the museum with \$20,000 annually for operational support and to help with maintenance of the Chapel Hill-owned museum building.

At a Town Council meeting on Monday, the museum board decided to withdraw their request for financial support and said more time was needed to discuss the request with town staff.

Museum Director Morgan Kenney

said the board withdrew its request for monetary support out of respect for the town's fiscal crunch this year.

"(We withdrew the request) primarily because it's a tight budget for the town," he said. "We decided to relieve any sort of pressure we might have put on them out of courtesy."

If the museum had not retracted the proposal, Town Manager Cal Horton said he would have recommended the Town Council vote against it. He cited the tight budget as his reasoning for this advice. "Our opinion is that the council could reasonably decide not to grant the funds due to a difficult budget year," he said. "It could request the museum board to make another year's effort to be self-sufficient."

Although the museum is no longer seeking financial help from the town, it

is still asking Chapel Hill for assistance with facility maintenance and capital asset management, including services like changing light bulbs and roof repair.

Kenney said the idea was that the council should maintain the building since they own it, like a landlord would maintain his or her apartments.

Horton recommended four options to the Town Council as a response to the maintenance request. Along with providing no additional funding, Horton said the council could decide to reallocate money from other services, contract for maintenance services or allocate maintenance funds annually to the museum.

Kenney said his hope was that the council would decide to take full responsibility for the costs of maintenance, since it had come to \$5,000 annually for each of the past three years.

He said the museum board wanted to help the council make the best decision. By asking the council for more time, the board could discuss the issue further with town staff. Kenney said he wanted to make sure the town had the most accurate data to make an informed decision.

Board of Trustees Chairwoman Nancy Preston agreed that it would be to the museum's advantage to hold further discussions with town staff before appearing before the council again.

"I think the idea was that we would sit down with the manager and figure out what the town's willing to do with regards to maintaining the building and grounds before presenting before the council," she said.

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# Death Toll Reaches 644 In Uganda Mass Murder

Associated Press

RUGAZI, Uganda - The children and neighbors who had looked on in horrified wonder for two days drifted away Wednesday, accustomed by now to the gruesome sight of shirtless workers tugging twisted bodies through a narrow doorway onto the green lawn.

But that didn't mean the horror had ceased. The death count linked to a Christian doomsday sect climbed even higher Wednesday - more than 640 - in what officials say is one of the largest mass murders in recent history.

The latest collection of twisted, decaying bodies was uncovered in the plain gray fieldstone house of Dominic

Kataribabo, an excommunicated Roman Catholic priest and a sect leader.

Earlier this week, 74 mutilated and strangled bodies, many of them children, were unearthed from a mass grave in Kataribabo's backyard.

Scenes of horror linked to the apocalyptic sect have emerged repeatedly since March 17, when fire engulfed the chapel of a compound in nearby Kanungu. At least 330 people burned to death there. Kataribabo, 64, is believed to have been among the dead.

Authorities initially ruled it a mass suicide. But within days, investigators discovered six strangled, mutilated corpses in a pit latrine on the compound, sparking a murder investigation.

"I think it's just a fear factor they're using to avoid the issue right now."

But Sciortino's plan is far from dead.

Although it won't be instituted next year, he said, a large group of Tufts students still adamantly support it. Sciortino said the next step was getting other universities involved and that a group of students would meet this week to decide specific schools to contact.

He said the university's rooming regulations violated its antidiscrimination policies. "I understand the concerns, but I think there are ways to deal with the concerns. It's the right of adult students to choose their roommates, regardless of sex or sexual orientation."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## Take Back the Night March

Community and Campus members are invited to join in an annual candlelit march around the UNC-CH campus to reclaim the night and protest sexual violence. The march will take place Thursday, March 30, 2000. All are welcome.

7:30pm - Gather in the UNC pit for music and speakers.  
8:00pm - March kick off. Speak-out and refreshments to follow.

Sponsored by UNC's Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention, Domestic Violence Advocacy Project, and Carolina Women's Week (March 27-31).

For more information or directions, please contact Tina at 919-914-5465 or [furies@email.unc.edu](mailto:furies@email.unc.edu)

## CONNER

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the Horace Williams tract development, receiving a commitment that it would be an "absolute" inclusion.

Beyond working with the UNC community, the organization addressed a number of internal issues, including the creation of a first-ever GPSF Cabinet.

"Just the fact that we have a Cabinet is a major accomplishment," Conner said.

However, the only goal which Conner failed to achieve was also an internal issue. "The one thing we wanted to get to was an overhaul of the constitution and bylaws but when you compare it to the things more tangibly touching students, we just ran out of time," he said.

"If that's all we didn't do, that's not a horrible thing, and hopefully (the GPSF) can get it done next year."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## HOUSING

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She said the issue of coed rooms had never been brought to the attention UNC officials. If students requested a similar policy at UNC, the issue would be sent through a line of committees and boards, including the Board of Trustees, Casey said. But gay and lesbian students can live with their partners if they sign up together, she said.

At Wesleyan, Ederer said very few heterosexual couples ended up utilizing the coed room option; instead, more friends chose to live together.

But Sciortino said the problems concerning administrators would not happen on an unmanageable scale at Tufts.

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## Public Service Grants

The Carolina Center for Public Service invites Faculty, Staff, and Student Organizations to submit proposals for collaborative public service projects. The Center will award \$80,000 through the 2000 Public Service Grants.

Requirements for proposals are available online at [www.unc.edu/cps](http://www.unc.edu/cps). Proposals are due April 19. Winners will be recognized at the Public Service Awards Banquet on May 4.

Questions: call the Center at 843-7568.

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