



The University and Towns
IN BRIEF

Jazz Bands, Glee Club To Play Final Concerts

The Department of Music will present end of the year concerts April 30 through May 2 in Hill Hall auditorium. On Sunday, the Jazz and Lab Bands will perform at 3 p.m. and the Glee Clubs will perform at 8 p.m.

The University and Concert Bands will perform at 8 p.m. May 1. The Chamber Singers and the Carolina Choir will perform at 8 p.m. May 2.

Motley Fool Co-founder To Speak Thursday

David Gardner, co-founder of The Motley Fool Inc., will speak at the Kenan-Flagler Business School on Thursday. This event will be the finale of the Kenan-Flagler 2000 Dean Speaker Series.

Gardner, a 1988 Morehead Scholar graduate of UNC, founded the Internet company in 1993, and it has grown to become the most popular online investment site. Gardner will speak at 5:30 p.m. in the Maurice J. Koury Auditorium of the McColl Building.

Annual Unity Games To Take Place Friday

The second annual Unity Games will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday on the Ehringhaus fields.

The games are sponsored by Student Government, the Black Student Movement, Residence Hall Association and the Carolina Athletic Association.

Today is the last day to sign up. Sign-ups are being held in the Pit.

Additional questions can be sent to Unity Games Chairman Zach Fay at zjfay@email.unc.edu.

Alumnus Set to Speak At Annual Meeting

Robert Morgan, award-winning poet, novelist and UNC alumnus, is the keynote speaker for the 21st annual meeting of the Thomas Wolfe Society, which will be held May 5-6 on the UNC campus.

Morgan's newest book, "Gap Creek," was featured on Oprah Winfrey's Book Club and has become a national bestseller.

Wilson Library's North Carolina Collection will sponsor the event. Sessions held in the Pleasants Family Assembly Room are free and open to the public. For additional information, call 962-1172.

CAA Hypes Baseball With Pitching Machine

The Sports Marketing Committee of Carolina Athletic Association will be promoting the remainder of the UNC baseball schedule with a speed pitch machine from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Pit today.

Students are encouraged to come out and show support for UNC baseball.

Carrboro Seeks Coaches For Pee Wee Baseball

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is seeking volunteer coach applications for the 2000 Pee Wee baseball program.

The league is designed for players aged six through eight.

Coaches must be able to teach proper playing skills, fundamentals, sportsmanship and be able to organize practices. For an application or additional information, call the department at 968-7703.

Baseball League Opens Registration to Public

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is accepting registrations for the youth baseball league for players aged 13 or 14. The fee is \$27 for Orange County residents and \$51 for non-Orange County residents.

Registration forms must be signed by a parent or guardian and are accepted on a first come-first serve basis. For additional information, call 968-7703.

County Needs People For Volunteer Positions

Volunteer Orange, a service of Triangle United Way, is seeking volunteers for a variety of positions.

Volunteer needs include teaching children about butterflies at the Durham science museum, assisting with the Chapel Hill food drive, timing and refereeing during the 2000 Senior Games in late April and helping with the Celebration of Women to take place May 6. For additional information, call 929-9837.

From Staff Reports

Officials Kill Resident's Land-Use Proposal

By **THERESA CHEN**
Staff Writer

A local resident's petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council has sparked controversy over noise pollution, but some involved believe the conflict is masking a greater issue.

The problem first arose Nov. 30, when Steve Dobbins, of 218 Wilson St., submitted a petition to the council to change the land-use designation of a 2.2 acre piece of land his family owns at the corner of Cameron Avenue and Wilson Street. The issue was revisited at Monday night's Town Council meeting.

Dobbins said the request would change the designation of the land from an R-3 low-residential area to a mixed-use area, which would allow for the construction of offices, day-care centers and even places of worship on the site. This would help buffer noise, he said.

"We're within earshot of 14 frat, three dorms and parking lots," he said. "It makes sense to put buildings on the northern perimeter to take the brunt of the noise. In good planning you need smooth transition from one land use to another. Currently we're intended for low residential, but right across the street in our face is town center."

Catherine Frank, vice chairwoman of the Historic District Commission, who lives near the area in question, said although Dobbins might believe the revision could provide better land use transitions, his main focus at the council meeting was the noise coming from fraternities.

"He played a video of Chi Psi Lodge on Halloween night to use as an example of noise," she said.

Junior Jason Russell, president of Chi Psi, said Dobbins had asked Russell to support him in the matter. However, Russell said he was unaware that noise from his fraternity was an issue.

"I didn't know he was going to use us as a way to try to get these buildings, Russell said. "I think it's a bit ridiculous myself. There is no way that a building on that plot of land could logically be considered a buffer against the noise made by our fraternity."

Frank echoed Russell's sentiments and said a land use change would lead to a zoning change. "Noise is kind of a red herring in this case," she said. "The way to deal with noise is not to rezone property."

However, Dobbins said it was not his goal to rezone the land.

"I know at least one person who's incorrectly characterized this as a rezoning request," he said. "I'm not asking the town to solve the problem, just acknowledge it. It is not a rezoning request and does not ask Town Council to approve any given project."

The Town Council decided not to vote on the petition because it was too vague, council member Kevin Foy said.

"We did not have a specific proposal in front of us," he said. "It was not clear what was going to go there. In that case, there didn't seem to be a sufficient case for changing the land use category."

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

1st-Year Projects Garner Students' High Praise

This year's freshman programs stem from a 1997 UNC Intellectual Task Force report, initiated by the late Chancellor Michael Hooker.

By **KAREY WUTKOWSKI**
Staff Writer

Coming to UNC as an out-of-state student, freshman Jennifer Koo was nervous about college life.

"I didn't know anyone, and it was my first time being away from home," said Koo, a Dunwoody, Ga., native.

These fears, common among entering freshmen, prompted UNC officials to revamp the freshman experience this year by implementing a number of new programs designed to ease the social and academic transition into college life.

And with the first full year under their belts, officials and students like Koo are touting the initiative as a success.

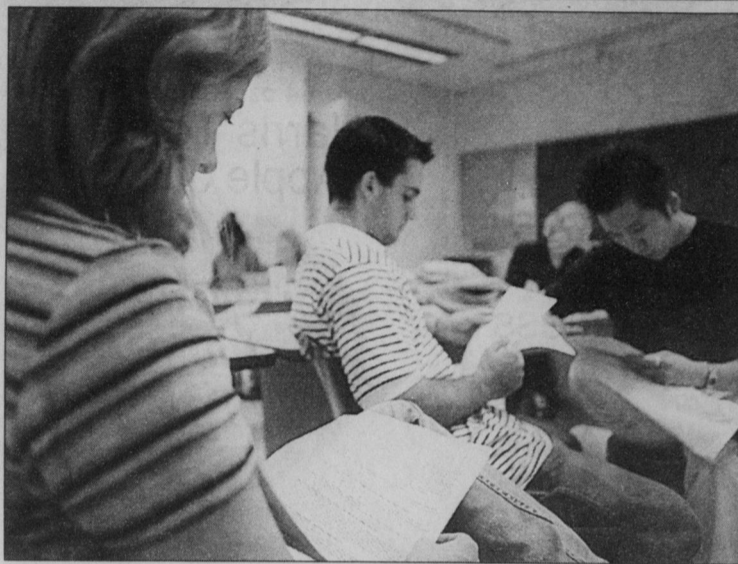
In her first semester, Koo took a first-year seminar, one of the newly offered programs, and enjoyed the sense of community she found in the smaller, more interactive class.

"It was a class where we actually knew each other's name."

Sue Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the strength of the programs was their versatility. "Our approach to the first-year experience was variety," she said. "For some students the seminars really had great importance. For others it was summer reading. Others wanted a housing experience."

The programs targeted social and academic

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Freshman Genevieve Yancey reads a critique of Arthur Golden's novel "Memoirs of Geisha" in "American Life of Japanese Women," a first-year seminar taught by Jan Bardsley.

Urban Growth the 'Smart' Way

Managing growth in small towns and urban centers has become a topic that is receiving state attention.

By **KELLIE DIXON**
Assistant City Editor

In striving to maintain growth in an efficient manner, Chapel Hill has become a trendsetter for other state municipalities facing expansion problems.

Chapel Hill and Carrboro have historically addressed growth as individual town priorities through their own versions of Smart Growth.

Smart Growth is a philosophy employed by the Chapel Hill Town Council to manage growth that is ultimately controlled by state jurisdiction.

Factors that the plan encompasses include environmental protection, increased population density, improved public transportation and an emphasis on mixed-use housing, which combines commercial and residential development.

Neighboring towns and cities are

also starting to focus on the concept of Smart Growth in order to address their own problems with sprawl.

Cary and Raleigh are two prime examples where growth is being addressed. Because of rapid development in the past couple of years, Cary has struggled to provide enough water for its residents.

Raleigh, meanwhile, is trying to reign in development that is threatening to encroach on neighboring jurisdictions, such as Wake Forest and Holly Springs.

Concern over growth management has reached the state level where a Smart Growth Study Commission was created to educate North Carolina about the Smart Growth concept.

Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, and Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, head the commission. Hackney said he expected that a bill would be introduced to the General Assembly during the next session.

Despite the state's decision on the matter, Chapel Hill already enacted its own form of Smart Growth.

Town Council member Kevin Foy said Smart Growth began when the council established an Urban Growth Boundary for the town in 1988. He said this rural buffer was aimed at protecting Chapel Hill and most of Orange County from outside sprawl.

"(The buffer) is like drawing a line around Chapel Hill," he said. "It's not even but it follows a specific path. This



Mixed-use developments like Meadowmont (above) have caused heated debate about Chapel Hill's growth.

area will not be annexed and nothing will be built out there."

Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County have used stringent policies to manage urban sprawl.

"We've got development standards such as maximum density, height standards, limitations on the size of the buildings, road improvements," Roger Waldon, planning director for Chapel Hill said. "We (also) require recreational improvements."

In addition to building specifications, Chapel Hill's Smart Growth also

touches on environmental regulations.

"We have open space requirements and a series of environmental protections to protect stream corridors, steep slopes and wetlands," Walden said.

He said recent local development projects fit the Smart Growth concept.

"Southern Village is an excellent example of Smart Growth," Walden said. "The development has greenways, which allow residents to walk and bike to neighborhood business."

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UNC Tops Nebraska's Retention

Chancellor-elect James Moeser's tenure did see a boost in graduation and retention rates at Nebraska.

By **JONATHAN MOSELEY**
Staff Writer

UNC Chancellor-elect James Moeser will be trading University of Nebraska-Lincoln's graduation and retention rate weaknesses for one of UNC's primary strengths.

UNC's freshman retention rate in the 1998-99 school year was 79 percent, compared to UNC's 94.2 percent.

And UNL's graduation rate is approaching 50 percent, while UNC's graduation rate is at 81.9 percent, once five- and six-year degree programs are taken into account.

Universities use freshman retention and graduation rates as a benchmark for students' academic performance.

The 30 percent difference in the schools' graduation rates reflects a difference in academic standards, said Moeser, who will remain UNL chancellor until July. "UNC has a more selective student body and displays a really high level of performance in undergraduate education," he said.

But Moeser also said UNL made some tangible progress in retention and graduation rates during his time there.

"(UNL officials) set a goal of 84 percent freshman retention, and we're just about to hit 80 percent now, so we've come a ways," he said. "And we did the same with graduation levels. We want to hit 60 percent in five or six years."

James Greason, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said recent graduation and retention rate increases resulted primarily from increased admissions standards implemented in 1997.

Gary Barnes, UNC-system vice president for program assessment, said raising admissions standards was a common approach to boosting graduation and retention levels. "The higher the requirements, the less likely you are to have any academic difficulty," he said.

But because public universities such as UNL and UNC aim to educate as many state citizens as possible, many schools try instead to help freshman adjust to life on a college campus, Barnes said.

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Neely Campaign Focuses on Family Values

Editor's Note: During this week, The Daily Tar Heel will profile the top five candidates in the N.C. gubernatorial race. Primaries are slated for May 2.

By **LUCAS FENSKÉ**
Assistant State & National Editor

A man who enjoys gardening, loves sailing and has a passion for the movie "Chariots of Fire" has been forced to do without.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Chuck Neely said he had spent the past 15 months working on the campaign trail, keeping him away from his hobbies.

"Campaigning pretty much cuts into my spare time," Neely said.

Calling himself a "very strong conservative," he said several factors, including the ability to work across party lines, made him a qualified candidate.

"I want everyone to be heard," he said.

"The legislature can be partisan, but I try to bring people together."

Neely was first elected to the N.C. House of Representatives in 1994, a year that saw the Republicans take con-

trol of the state House for the first time since Reconstruction.

Reminiscent of 1994's Republican "Contract with America," Neely said his gubernatorial bid focused on his "Covenant with The Family."

He said the covenant was a collection of several initiatives designed to improve the quality of life for families throughout the state.

Neely said he would work to ban video poker machines, restrict access to online pornography and increase penalties for domestic violence.

He said he also supported strengthening the UNC system through several measures, such as improving campus facilities and bolstering noncompetitive faculty salaries.

In addition to state funds, Neely said the state should look into possibly using student tuition and fees to cover some of the costs.

Last summer, UNC-system President Molly Broad presented the state legislature with a multibillion dollar bond pro-

posal to fund construction and renovation throughout the system.

The legislature adjourned without taking any action on the measure, setting the stage for another debate on the issue when it reconvenes in several weeks.

Neely also said he would increase the level of tuition support the state offered to citizens who chose to attend private schools.

"There are 10,000 empty seats in private schools," he said.

"We can use some of those seats to take the pressure off places like (UNC-Chapel Hill)."

Neely, currently a Raleigh lawyer, has both legal and political experience. He graduated with honors from UNC in 1965 with a degree in political science.

After graduating from law school at Duke in 1970, Neely served in the U.S. Navy for several years.

While working in the state legislature, Neely served on several committees, including finance and ways and means.

Neely said he also served as Judiciary Committee chairman for four years, where he worked with issues such as tort reform, juvenile crime and domestic vio-



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