



ERIN MENDELL

## Local Leaders Right to React To Broad Issues

The Charlotte City Council sent a powerful message when it overrode the mayor's veto on its resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty Sept. 5.

Mayor Pat McCrory vetoed the resolution because he said the City Council did not have the jurisdiction to pass the measure.

Remind you of anything? When Carrboro's Board of Aldermen became the first municipality in North Carolina to pass a similar resolution in June of last year, the move unleashed a flurry of criticism. Opponents of the resolution said, just as McCrory did, that a municipality should keep its collective nose out of the state and federal business of capital punishment.

But who lives in the state and country? If you guessed the same people who live in towns and cities, you'd be correct.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist justified Carrboro's (and Charlotte's) passing death penalty resolutions when she said, "Our oath obligates us to take care of the people of Carrboro."

A Carrboro resident could receive the death penalty unfairly, and that entitles the aldermen to pass a resolution about it.

For Gist it goes beyond simply having the jurisdiction to pass a resolution about the death penalty. She said she's obligated to speak out on issues that go beyond the Carrboro town limits in the same way she advocates for residents on issues the aldermen do have official control over.

And she does. If something affects a town or city's residents - as federal and state policies do - the town or city certainly has the jurisdiction to act on it.

Of course, Charlotte's and Carrboro's resolutions won't have any official effect on death penalty policy because Charlotte and Carrboro officials don't have the power to administer capital punishment.

But the resolutions will have an indirect effect. Once one municipality encouraged a moratorium on the death penalty, it became easier for others to do so, said Joyce Brown, a Chapel Hill Town Council member. The Town Council has passed a resolution similar to Carrboro's.

A year ago, it would have been inconceivable that a city as conservative as Charlotte would pass a resolution supporting a moratorium on the death penalty. Last week, the City Council members felt strongly enough about the resolution to override the mayor's veto by a vote of 8-3.

Gist wouldn't call the aldermen trailblazers, though. She just thinks they took the stigma of being first away from the state's other municipalities.

"We're willing to be the left-wing oddity," Gist said. "We're kind of viewed as the la-la land of the state."

But la-la land is the only place big changes can start. As Gist said, a group that starts anything is usually considered the lunatic fringe, even if its ideas later become mainstream.

Charlotte's City Council has proven that Chapel Hill's and Carrboro's governments aren't always out of touch with the rest of the state. Durham, Davidson, Hillsborough and Orange counties have also validated the work of the aldermen and town council by passing death penalty resolutions.

Recent studies have shown that the death penalty is administered unfairly, and I would argue that that makes the municipalities right to pass death penalty resolutions.

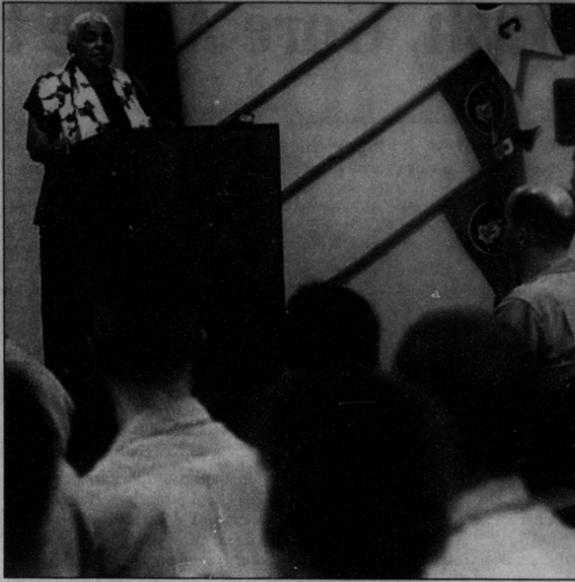
But regardless of whether you agree with me on that point, there's no denying that local governments have a right and an obligation to consider all issues that affect their residents even if they have no official control over them.

And Gist is optimistic about the effectiveness of municipalities' resolutions.

"I think the moratorium is inevitable in this country," she said. "The momentum is building."

Chapel Hill and Carrboro might always be la-la land, but at least one of their ideas has become a popular export.

Columnist Erin Mendell can be reached at mendell@email.unc.edu.



DTH/VALERIE BRUCHON

Brenda Brown Schoonover, U.S. Ambassador to Togo, explains the value of communication between the U.S. State Department and the military.

# Diplomats Deliver Talks On Service in West Africa

By ELIZABETH BREYER  
Assistant University Editor

Two U.S. diplomats with extensive experience in Western Africa discussed the importance of interaction between the government and military in foreign affairs Thursday.

Ambassador Brenda Brown Schoonover, former U.S. Ambassador to Togo, will be serving as the UNC Ambassador-in-Residence for the next year. She and U.S. Consul General Samuel Brock spoke to a crowd of ROTC members on "The Interface Between Diplomacy and Military Affairs from the Ground."

Schoonover said she looks forward to a year of giving such speeches to UNC students and educating them about foreign affairs in general.

"I'm here not only in terms of encouraging people to join the foreign service, but also sharing knowledge and experience in working as a diplomat abroad," she said.

The Ambassador-in-Residence program, administered by the U.S. Department of State, places 20 ambassadors at colleges around the country for one-year terms of service.

Schoonover was the first to speak at the forum, examining the relationship between the Department of State and Department of Defense in their domestic and international actions.

"Foreign affairs today have many dimensions besides national security - they have expanded to affect every U.S. citizen and involve everyone in government," she said. "Our ability to protect U.S. interests and security is enhanced by

diplomatic and military relationships." Schoonover focused on the role of the domestic attaché, who acts as the liaison between embassies and the military.

She related several stories of interacting with the attaché during her tenure in Togo, a small West African nation near Ghana. "As an ambassador, I found it necessary to keep the defense attaché informed," she said, citing a specific example of how the attaché helped her diffuse an armed border conflict.

Brock also told several stories of diplomatic relationships he cultivated while working in West Africa where he served as the deputy chief of mission in Benin.

Brock took a more specific approach in his speech than Schoonover, telling stories of his work with the African Crisis

See DIPLOMACY, Page 7

## Instructor of the Year: All Fired Up

### Local Captain Teaches Trade

By HARMONY JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill Fire Capt. Doug Cline is not a man concerned with pomp and circumstance.

So when the International Society of Fire Service Instructors presented him with the Instructor of the Year award, he didn't even want his chief to issue a press release.

"I'm overwhelmed, to say the least," Cline said. He was chosen from a nationwide pool of fire instructors for his excellence in instruction of fire safety and rescue.

Cline, who has been with the Chapel Hill Fire Department since 1993, is a certified firefighting instructor, paramedic and fire inspector, in addition to being a qualified firefighter.

Capt. Barry McLamb nominated Cline for the award because of his dedication and service to the department.

Although Cline admits to being flattered by the award, he remains humble about it.

"There are other folks out there that deserve it more than I do," he said.

With two other training officers, Cline works 56 hours each week in rotating 24-hour intervals.

His shift begins at 7 a.m. with daily maintenance of the trucks and other equipment. Throughout the day, he performs fire inspections, works on his personal fitness and provides emergency response.

Where Cline stands out is in his ability to instruct other firefighters.

And Cline's eyes light up behind his glasses when he talks about his job.

"It's pure fun to be here," he said. "Everyone in this business in a teacher in one way, shape or form."

During his shift, he educates eager firefighters with full-fledged drills in the classroom as well as on site.



DTH/EMILY SCHNURE

Chapel Hill Fire Capt. Doug Cline was named National Fire Instructor of the Year by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors.

Cline passes on fire rescue and safety information, and his students prepare for real-life emergency response situations.

But his instruction is not limited to his department. He also teaches seminars at the state and national levels.

Cline said he hopes he will have an impact on his students as his mentors had on him.

The Mullens, W.Va., native said he can't recall a time when he did not want to be a firefighter.

"Ever since I was 2 years old, I wanted to work with the fire department," he said. "I remember being fascinated with fire trucks and ambulances and running to the window when I heard the sirens."

At 16, Cline got his start as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown.

"It was kind of like it was all play. Several folks taught me (about firefighting) in nonchalant ways," he said. "Those folks made a lifelong impact on me."

After graduating from Concord College in Athens, W.Va., Cline worked for 10 years as a firefighter in Mercer County, W.Va.

He then moved to the fire department in Gainesville, Fla., where he spent two years.

But Cline got an itch to work elsewhere and soon found himself fighting fires in Chapel Hill.

Now he lives in Timberlake with his wife, Dedra, and their 4-year-old daughter, Maggie.

While Cline is reluctant to tout his own achievements, he is quick to praise his co-workers - whom

See CLINE, Page 7

## Town OKs Budget, Expands Bus Service

The finalized state budget allows Chapel Hill to offer extended bus times, even if the University is closed.

By KATE HARTIG  
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill bus system has become more user-friendly after eliminating all reduced weekday service hours.

The Town Council amended the 2000-01 budget Monday to include funding for transit services that provide

full weekday service year-round on University and town routes.

In the past, transit services ran on reduced-service schedules when UNC was not in session, totaling 17 weeks out of the year.

"The transit system will now be more accessible for people year-round," said council member Flicka Bateman. "With extended hours, those who have a late

*"With extended hours, those who have a late class or work on campus can use the bus on a consistent basis."*

FLICKA BATEMAN  
Chapel Hill Town Council Member

class or work on campus can use the bus on a consistent basis."

The service changes went into effect Aug. 21 when the fall bus schedule began. But town officials had yet to formally arrange the budget

to allow funding for the new services. At a June 5 town budget work session, the Town Council authorized Town Manager Cal Horton to add the extend-

ed service, contingent on the N.C. General Assembly's finalized budget.

The state adopted its 2000-01 budget, allowing the town to implement budgetary plans for service changes.

"Since the state adopted their budget, the town could then formally modify the budget ordinance to include the transit service changes already planned," said Chapel Hill Transit Director Scott McClellan.

Carolyn Elfland, UNC associate vice chancellor for auxiliary services, said she hopes bus use will increase with the

See TRANSIT, Page 7

## El Chilango Hosts Mexican Fiesta

By KELLIE DIXON  
Assistant City Editor

El Chilango will host Fiesta de la Independencia tonight, launching a night of festivities for the Latino community.

This festival will include a speech at midnight recounting the history of Mexican independence and will offer ethnic food and drinks.

Jacques Menache, who grew up in Mexico City, owns El Chilango with his wife, Lisa Dobby. The eatery will celebrate its one-year anniversary this week.

Menache said he created the restaurant to establish a cultural center. Located at 506 Jones Ferry Road, it offers Spanish classes, Latin dancing, old-time music and other ethnic oppor-

tunities for the community to come together.

"I used to be an executive director of the Carrboro ArtCenter," he said. "I founded it and ran it for 15 years. I came to the conclusion that I should start a restaurant and do as many cultural events as possible."

Menache said he initially decided to have art exhibits to draw people in. The exhibits change monthly - this month's display is artwork by nine different artists from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Michele Rivest of 100 Oak Ave. said the art and the atmosphere were what caught her attention. "It is absolutely phenomenal," she said. "To see these paintings, you would have to travel all the way to Oaxaca, Mexico."

Menache said the ethnic food that the restaurant offered is homemade and set up in the form of self-service buffet. The cost is \$4.95 per pound. "The food caters to the Latino community," he said.

"They like it a lot. If we had the same food on our menu, an American would not ask for it. That's the reason for the self-service buffet, you get to see it before you order it."

"This is the most traditional Mexican food I've had. Last year, I was in Mexico and I tried some traditional Mexican food and (El Chilango) makes it almost the same," said Gabor Beke, a native of Hungary and a resident of Chapel Hill.

See EL CHILANGO, Page 7

## Film Fest Shows Off UNC Talent

Alumni and students donate their creations to the free festival, which is tonight and Saturday night.

By SHINDY CHEN  
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, film festivals are not strictly reserved for uppity movie snobs - especially not the free film fest taking place at the Carolina Union Film Auditorium on Friday and Saturday evening.

The festival - dubbed the Carolina Student, Alumni and Faculty Film and Video Screening - encourages the entire student body to cast their anxieties aside, attend and recognize the work of their peers.

The event is a brainchild of junior communications major Rajeev Dassani, and presents 15 mostly short films extending anywhere from five minutes to a half hour. Showcased over the course of two evenings, Dassani said organizing these films required nearly three months of planning and the Carolina Union's support.

"The Carolina Union was very supportive and they were all about wanting to show the students' work," he said. "It's wonderful these films are going to be shown and made accessible to everyone."

Also sponsoring the event is the Carolina Production Guild, for which Dassani is the publicity officer.

"It's a night where (the filmmakers) can share their ideas with the student body and surrounding body," said Bharath Parthasarathy, film board member for the Carolina Union Activities Board.

Carolina alumni who will show their work include film directors Peyton Reid of "Bring it On" fame and John Schultz, who directed "Drive Me Crazy." Other alumni works include those of Ian Williams, John Knight, and Norwood Cheek, founder of the Flicker Film Festival, and Mike Connor, who has two films being screened.

The first, "Frank's Monday," runs merely one minute. "Much like Saturn's different kind of car, this is a different kind of car commercial," Connor said. His other film, "Secondhand," was made nearly two years ago and was one of two major films funded by the production guild.

Another selection is the work of senior George Manis, a double major in communications and history. He said

See FILMMAKERS, Page 7



DTH/MARGARET SOUTHERN

Joe Nelson and Sarah Bryan debut at El Chilango's Old Time Music Night on Thursday. The two have only played together for a month.