

Board Sticks to Road Decision SLS Offers UNC Students Free Legal Representation

By JAMES MILLER AND LAUREN RITTER Staff Writers

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday night rejected residents' requests to continue considering plans to link two residential roads.

The board stuck to its original 6-1 March decision and endorsed the connection of Autumn Drive in Barington Hills neighborhood to Autumn Drive in Wexford. It also denied a moratorium on construction and a referendum on the Autumn Drive connector.

Since the March vote, residents have expressed concern that connecting the two roads would increase traffic and threaten the environment and pedestrian safety, particularly the safety of children walking to and from nearby McDougale Elementary School.

Katherine Cole of Barington Hills said that she felt residents were being patronized by the board. "No one has had a dialogue with us outside of a public hearing," she said. "It's a very frustrating forum."

Mayor Mike Nelson said he had looked into the issue before deciding but still believed that the policy benefited the

community.

"I do support our policy and sincerely respect folks in the community with the opposite opinion," he said. "This kind of issue can sometimes tear a community apart."

Edie Hofenburt, who lives on Autumn Drive, said other neighborhoods have contacted her about the connection.

"Other neighborhoods don't want us to be connected because they know how awful it is, and they don't want it to happen to anyone else."

Paul Brewer-Jensen, who lives on Oak Avenue, showed his concern with a sign that read "4 of the 6 Who Voted to Connect Autumn Drive Live on Streets That Are Not Optimally Connected - NIMBY Hypocrites."

NIMBY stands for "not in my backyard."



Alderman Jacquelyn Gist is the lone board member to support residents' opinions about the connector.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist still opposed the connection, and her opinion was met with applause by the residents.

"I would ask the board to think again and consider the unintended consequences of this action - to reopen true dialogue and to work to compromise and to tailor the connector road policy to new neighborhoods instead of tailoring old neighborhoods to the policy," she said.

Residents' concerns stemmed in part from a letter to the editor in Sunday's Chapel Hill News. The letter, written by the six supporting aldermen, was intended to answer questions raised by the residents after the March decision. Some residents felt that it did not.

"The essay that the aldermen published, which they say answers the very straightforward questions we posed, does not answer those questions," said Michael Koch, a resident of Barington Hills Road.

But residents said they have not given up. "I think we need to sit down and put our heads together," Koch said.

"We will respond."

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

By LOREN CLEMENS Staff Writer

UNC students might think there is nowhere to turn when they get in trouble with the law. But free advice and information is just around the corner at UNC's Student Legal Services.

Dorothy Bernholz, director of SLS and one of its three attorneys, said SLS's function is to advise, educate and defend students. Its services are covered by the student activities fees, and clients usually do not have to pay any additional charges except for court fees.

Bernholz has been with SLS since its inception in 1976. "I was fresh out of law school when I was hired, and they haven't been able to get rid of me," she said.

Bernholz said the majority of issues SLS addresses are tenant/landlord conflicts, driving offenses and expunging criminal records.

SLS also helps student groups incorporate and become nonprofit organiza-

tions. One of UNC's oldest honor societies, the Order of the Grail-Valkyries, has been using Bernholz's services this year to become a tax-exempt corporation. "Her expertise and her great network of lawyers in the community have been invaluable," said Patrick Methvin, president of the group.

Many students discovered the resources of SLS when they were involved in the recent legal battles with EZ Storage and Tar Heel Parking.

EZ Storage frustrated many students by overcharging them for services, and Tar Heel Parking was accused of various

shoddy business practices.

"(SLS was) very efficient," said sophomore Ashlee Smith after SLS helped her deal with the storage facility that claimed to be endorsed by UNC. "They got back to us right away, letting us know that the University did not give (EZ Storage) permission (to use UNC's name)."

Other problems SLS has addressed over the years include Spring Break travel scams, uncontested divorces and noise violations.

Some situations require outside assistance, such as cases involving more than \$10,000. But Bernholz said a student should always visit SLS offices before consulting with another law firm.

SLS has helped more than 70,000 students with conflicts and questions over the years. "It's wonderful to work with intelligent clients," Bernholz said. "We'll have a party when we reach 100,000."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



Student Legal Services Director Dorothy Bernholz says SLS has served more than 70,000 students.

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Group Promotes Mass Transit to Middle-Schoolers

By JENNY MCLENDON Staff Writer

A new campus group has formed to educate younger students on the ins and

outs of using public transportation. After realizing the lack of knowledge about transit options among young people, THINK Transit organizers Brad Rathgeber and Emily Nance designed a

curriculum that they have since test-driven in middle schools throughout the Triangle region.

The classroom presentations include teaching children to read transportation maps as well as examining the pros and cons of various forms of transportation.

"The response from students was unbelievable," said Nance, a junior from Albemarle. "It was amazing to see their excitement. By the end, they had a good grasp on how to read bus maps and how to travel."

Rachel Willis, associate professor of American studies, also will bring her experience on the Chapel Hill Transportation Board to her role as the organization's sponsor.

Rathgeber said participants in THINK Transit will serve as civic educators in classrooms around the county. They will also reward middle school students with free Triangle Transit Authority tickets as an incentive to learning the benefits of using mass transit.

Rathgeber said the organization will

rent out several train cars and take contest winners on a railway journey to Charlotte. "Our goal is to educate kids about public transportation early, before they become hooked on cars," Rathgeber said. "A lot of kids don't realize that they have the ability to be independent and to go places like the mall or the movies without relying on their parents for transportation."

THINK Transit members also plan to travel to New York, Boston and Washington, D.C., during Spring Break for a hands-on study of mass transit systems in major cities.

Ultimately, the organizers said they would like to see this program adopted in other areas. "There are lots of problems with public transportation in the South," Rathgeber said. "We'd like to develop a program that others can adopt and that will eventually get people all over North Carolina involved."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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JoAnn Overton

The University of North Carolina and Wachovia would like to congratulate JoAnn Overton, the Wachovia Woman of the Week.

JoAnn is a senior swimmer from Englewood, Colorado. She swims the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke as well as the 200 and 400 yard individual medley. This past year she helped North Carolina win the ACC Championship. JoAnn also excels out of the pool as she is a Kenan Flagler Business School student ambassador and a team representative on the Student-athlete Advisory Council.

Wachovia is committed to supporting achievements by women and is proud to celebrate JoAnn Overton's accomplishments.

Let's get started.

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Campus Calendar

Today

5:30 p.m. - The Black Student Movement will hold its general body meeting in Upendo Lounge. Hip Hop Nation will be present to facilitate a discussion on Hip Hop Evolution.

6 p.m. - Come learn about the history of Tai Chi and its benefits to your own health and well-being.

Jun Wang will lead the program in Coker Arboretum. In case of rain, the program will be held in the lobby of McIver Residence Hall.

7 p.m. - A Teach for America interest session will be held in 305 Hanes Hall for all those interested.

Thursday

5:30 p.m. - The UNC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will have its general body meeting in Union 213.

Come out and join the world's largest civil rights organization.

6 p.m. - The Transfer Student Network will hold a general interest meeting in the Johnston Center in Graham Memorial. All transfers past and present are invited to attend.

7 p.m. - InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, north chapter, invites all students interested in learning more about Jesus to come to large group in Union 224.

7 p.m. - The new and improved UNC Club Golf team is holding an interest and organizational meeting in 302 Woollen Gym.

For more information, e-mail go233@aol.com.

7:30 p.m. - Learn about classes being offered in the spring with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender content as well as how to express yourself through an Improv Workshop at Queer Network for Change in 208 Dey Hall.

Friday

7 p.m. - The Black Music Series will feature the music of John Coltrane in Toy Lounge in Dey Hall.

Join WNCU's Larry Thomas for a lecture and discussion.

8:15 p.m. - The Lab! Theatre presents: TRUST, a play by Steven Dietz and directed by Marcy Minton.

TRUST will play in Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre by Cobb Residence Hall.

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